

**INLAND WETLANDS COMMISSION
TOLLAND, CONNECTICUT**

**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES OF
January 21, 2010**

Members Present: Lee Lafountain, Chairman
Archie Tanner, Vice Chairman
Stan Tetrault, Secretary
Joe Bushey, Regular
Patti Hollay, Alternate

Absent Members: Beth Banning, Regular

Others Present: Steve Lowrey, Wetlands Agent
Ken Kaplan, 398 Grant Hill Road, citizen
John Ianni, soil scientist representing Ken Kaplan

REGULAR MEETING

1. Call to Order at 7:13pm. Seat Hollay for Banning

2. Approval of the Meeting Minutes

Acceptance of the December 3, 2009 meeting

Tetrault/Tanner: motion to accept the minutes of December 3, 2009 with the following correction:

Page 1, section: New Business, paragraph 1, sentence 6 should read: "Lafountain said it was clearly discussed previously that there was to be no work done in the wetlands behind the proposed house."

Unanimously approved.

3. Public Comment: none

NEW BUSINESS: None

RECEIPT OF APPLICATIONS: None

OLD BUSINESS

1. **Discussion with Ken Kaplan about un-permitted activities in the regulated area at 398 Grant Hill Road.**

Kaplan said Ianni visited the site on several occasions and developed a plan that was forwarded to Lowrey. Kaplan said Ianni was expected at this meeting, however is not here presently. Tetrault read into record a copy of the letter sent by Ianni. (See attachment). Kaplan said the activities that need to be completed in the winter were highlighted in the letter and that spring and summer activities may require further discussion with the Commission. Lowrey said the erosion controls (i.e. hay bales or erosion control tubes) should be placed prior to the thaw. Lowrey said the use of wood chips and the digging required would be difficult because of the frozen soils. Lowrey said he would provide erosion control tube information to Kaplan. Hollay asked how expensive the tubes are. Lowrey said there are about the same cost as hay bales.

Hollay asked if the Army Corps of Engineers has been notified. Kaplan said he has not spoken to them since he just received Ianni's letter. Lowrey said he has not discussed this with the Army Corps of Engineers. Bushey asked if the Commission is required to notify the Army Corp of Engineers. Lowrey said the Commission has no statutory obligation to notify them. Tanner suggested Kaplan consult with Ianni prior to notifying the Army Corps of Engineers.

Ianni arrived.

Ianni reviewed the property but indicated the property was snow covered so it was difficult to completely assess the property. Ianni identified area # 1 on the map. Ianni said he would like to see the rutting removed because it will restore as a wet meadow. Ianni said there is a tremendous seed source and the area will eventually be restored. Ianni reviewed the plants that might have been on the site. Ianni said there is an area of fill and would like to see that removed in the summer time. Ianni said the winter is the best time to remove the ruts. Ianni said the area could be back bladed especially on the eastern side of the wetlands.

Ianni said wetlands # 2 is smooth and does not require much work but needs erosion control. Ianni recommended hay bales and mulch hay in the steeper sections to protect from the spring run off. Ianni said this area should be allowed to come back naturally. Ianni said Kaplan would like to create a more permanent wetlands crossing and pond to access the rear of the property.

In wetlands # 3, there are 2 components. Ianni said one part holds water and contains buttonbush. Ianni said the area would need to be monitored for growth and if there is not sufficient growth, it may need to be seeded. Ianni said the other part would restore to a woody wetlands. Ianni said the wetlands are small and should restore easily. Ianni also identified the small hillside seep.

Ianni said he would like to see the smoothing of wetlands # 1 and the protecting of the slopes. Lowrey said straw or hay straw mulch should be used instead of wood chips.

Ianni said other work would need to be completed but said he and Kaplan would come back to the Commission for permits. Lafountain said there is a small intermittent watercourse towards the back of the property. Lafountain said this area should also be protected. Ianni said a berm of wood chips would be placed. Kaplan agreed to the work.

Bushey asked when Ianni would return to the Commission for phase 2. Ianni said most likely in May. Lowrey asked if a wetland seed mix needs to be used. Ianni said a grass shade mixture. Bushey asked how much of the vegetation will come back. Ianni said all of it would come back over time. Hollay asked if Ianni expects problems with invasive species. Ianni said the invasive species management will be part of the phase #2 part of the project and can be controlled. Ianni said there are not a lot of the usual invasive species in Tolland.

Tetrault asked about the timing of smoothing the wetlands. Ianni said the best time is when there is still frost below the surface but a little soft on top. Lafountain asked Kaplan if he would like to maintain a wet meadow. Kaplan said yes. Lafountain asked Ianni to develop a plan for maintaining a wet meadow.

Ianni said he would like approval to smooth the ruts and place erosion and sedimentation controls although those will be placed outside the wetlands. Lafountain requested a motion.

Hollay/Bushey: motion to approve the following:

- 1 Proposed activities in wetlands # 1
- 2 Placement of erosion control measures in wetlands # 2.

Unanimously approved.

Ianni said there will be some erosion control measures placed now and then monitored until mid-April to address the easterly side of wetlands # 2 and to assess the growth that has started and then decide what areas if any need to be seeded. Ianni said he should have the remainder of the plan by mid-May. Lafountain requested that Ianni evaluate the intermittent watercourse at the back of the property. Lafountain said the area is at high risk for channelization and might do damage down the hill. Ianni said he would evaluate the area. Lafountain requested that Ianni keep in contact with the wetlands agent as work progresses.

Bushey asked Ianni his opinion about contacting the Army Corp of Engineers. Ianni said it is up to Kaplan, but he recommends that contact be made.

Lafountain said if there is an early spring these issues should be dealt with sooner. Ianni asked if there was a Cease and Desist. Lowrey said since Kaplan came to the Commission willingly, there was no need. Ianni said it could be listed on the agenda each meeting and discussed on an as needed basis based on weather and site conditions.

Ianni discussed a court case regarding the Army Corp of Engineers and there is some discussion of the wetlands regulations.

2. Discussion about implementing the Tankerhoosen River Watershed Management Plan in Tolland

Commissioners discussed information regarding buffers. Lowrey provided Commissioners copies of the Backyard Stream and Pond Buffers pamphlet. Lafountain said he was focusing his search in New England. Hollay recommended handing out the pamphlet Lowrey provided at the open house. Lowrey said there are some properties where it is going to be difficult to get the buffer and places that it may be impractical. Lowrey said the properties are old and the Commission cannot retroactively make people comply or say the property owners are in violation of the wetlands regulations. Lafountain said that the Commission could request a compromise. Bushey asked who would be contacted. Lowrey said the Commission is focusing the invitation to property owners along the tributaries but that a general announcement could be made in Tolland Monthly. Lafountain suggested bringing in John Gorman to a meeting prior to the open house to discuss the open house agenda.

Bushey said there should be alternatives for the parking lots, for example grassy swales or berms, etc. Lowrey said that should probably not be the first push because grant money and engineers would be required.

Commissioners discussed the save the date, brochure and invitation. Clerk will e-mail all of the information to the Commissioners to review the materials.

GENERAL BUSINESS

1. Correspondence
 - a. Lowrey provided Commissioners copies of the Habitat
2. Other Commission Business
 - a. Tetrault/Bushey: Motion that all Commission officers maintain their current positions.
Unanimously approved.
3. Adjourn

Bushey/Tetrault: motion to adjourn.

Unanimously approved.

Meeting adjourned 8:27pm

Respectfully submitted,



June Kausch
Clerk, Inland Wetlands Commission