

## TOLLAND INLAND WETLANDS COMMISSION

Thursday, January 5, 2012

7:00 p.m.

Community Room

Hicks Memorial Municipal Center

21 Tolland Green

**Members Present:** Lee Lafountain, Chairman  
Archie Tanner, Vice Chairman  
Beth Banning, Regular  
Joe Bushey, Regular  
Patti Hollay, Alternate

**Absent Members:** None

**Others Present:** Steve Lowrey, Wetlands Agent  
Tom Walker, Skip Septic representative for IWC 565  
Clem Langolis, Director of Public Works

### REGULAR MEETING

1. Call to Order at 7:08pm. Seat Hollay for vacancy.
2. Accept Minutes of the December 1, 2011 meeting.

Banning/Bushey: motion to accept the minutes of December 1, 2011 as presented.

Unanimously approved. Tanner abstains.

3. Public Comments: none

### OLD BUSINESS

1. IWC App #565 – Linda Niederwerfer: 148 Tolland Stage Road, excavation in watercourse and wetland to remove a couple decades of stream channel sediment and road sand, to prevent flooding of access road to hay field.

Lowrey reported speaking to applicant and, by phone, her brother regarding this application and what was discussed at the December 1<sup>st</sup> meeting. Lowrey reviewed the location of a pipe in the northwest corner of the wetlands. Lowrey said the property owner placed the pipe in 1954 after a hurricane and subsequent flooding. Lowrey reported that the applicant does not know the size of the pipe. Lowrey reviewed the options that the applicant and the Commission are considering. Lowrey also said that a curtain drain might work but most likely would not solve all of the problems and might serve to drain the wetland during the drier months. Lowrey said he thought by increasing the depth of the ditch would increase the carrying capacity and minimize the amount of water that flows on to the applicant's property and the road. Lowrey said that the applicant had reported that there were several accidents because of icing in front of their home last winter.

Lowrey said the applicant was agreeable to not creating a berm in the wetlands. Lowrey said he might recommend putting down geo-textile and stone on the "farm road" that runs near Tolland Stage Road. Bushey asked about the cost differences between the 3 options. Lowrey said he was not sure. Lowrey said it is an intermittent watercourse but also a drainage ditch. Lowrey said that the applicant had told him that years ago there was a pond near where Arnold Dr. now is and that it had been a filled; besides road run-off that might also be a source of water. Lowrey said his opinion would be to dig out the ditch with the spoils on the east side. He said he is not sure it would solve the problem but it might seem reasonable and would preserve the wetlands. Banning said she would recommend the ditch as a first option and the geo-textile option as an alternative with the curtain drain as a third choice. Lafountain and Bushey said they were not sure about the curtain drain option. Lowrey said he was not sure of the costs, but that he might recommend both.

Commissioners discussed a motion that would permit the digging out of the ditch and also the placement of geo-textile and stone on the "farm road" and that the applicant can do either or. Lafountain asked Walker if the spoils could be placed on the east side of the ditch. Walker said he thought it could be done and recommended doing the work during a dry season.

Bushey/Banning: motion to approve IWC #565 to include the following options:

1. To dig out the drainage ditch with some degree of slope so water will not be held in the ditch.
2. A second approved action to, if necessary, to place geo-textile and stone on the "farm road" to strengthen the road.

The following conditions also apply:

1. Spoils of the ditch should be placed on the east side of the ditch to minimize the wetlands impact
2. Work should be completed during a dry period
3. Erosion control measures placed as needed to protect the wetlands. Lowrey recommended placing hay bails at the pipe exit.
4. Wetlands Agent should be notified when work is to begin and Agent is to inspect work as it progresses as needed.
5. The property owner has a right to maintain the ditch as needed under this permit.

Unanimously approved.

Walker asked if there would be inspections would be required. Commission and Agent requested that agent be notified when work is to begin.

Reorder agenda to move new business to the next item.

Unanimously approved.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

Clem Langolis, to discuss 4 town projects:

##### 1. Proposed Drainage Swale at Town Hall Parking lot

Langolis reviewed a drainage basin that is behind the town parking lot that is being re-engineered due to the parking lot construction project. Langolis said the basin bottom is currently filled with riprap and is impossible to clean. Langolis said he proposes to remove riprap and re-grade the ditch and improve how the basin performs. Lafountain asked who did the original design. Langolis said a prior employee did it. Langolis provided the Commissioners with the plan and reviewed the current conditions and what improvements he proposes: the ditch would be grass rather than rip-rap, the outlet drain would be set 6" high to allow ponding and infiltration of many storm events and prevent sediment from passing into the road drain. Lowrey said more than half of the parking lot drains into the drainage basin. Langolis said the land contours would be used to improve the infiltration and decrease flows through the basin.

Bushey asked how wide the basin is. Langolis said it would continue to be 8 feet and explained that he would step the swale down and create a basin with a pipe at the bottom to improve infiltration and that the grass would be maintained at a foot high. Bushey asked about the slope of the basin. Bushey asked if there would be impediments to prevent people from driving in the basin. Langolis said the shelf would be planted with trees.

Commissioners agreed the new plan was well done and the improvements were a good idea. Bushey said this plan is in agreement with the LID development plan and the riprap plan would not be.

##### 2. Reconstruction of Retention Basin at Sugarbush

Lowrey and Langolis reviewed the plan and said there was a basin and had a leaching field. Lowrey reviewed how the plan was designed, the location of the drainage easement, and the location of a pipe. Langolis reviewed that one of the property owners on Lord Road, Ellington, contacted the Town and reported that the infiltration basin is not working and impacted his nearby septic system and that the septic system needs to be pumped every few days. Langolis said Gardener and Peterson said the basin was built for a 25-year storm. Langolis said he wants clean out the riprap of the basin, remove the sediment and the basin would be sloped so half of the water would enter the infiltration basin and the other side would head towards a pipe and drain out. Commissioners discussed that the

drainage basin is at a higher elevation than the property owners basin so the water is infiltrating, entering the leaching field and back into the property owner's septic tank.

Langolis said he is going to have to bring in materials to create a better basin. Commissioners reviewed the map and the location of a basin overflow pipe. Langolis said the basin has not been cleaned since it was first built.

Langolis said Peterson would come out to the site and inspect conditions. Lowrey and Lafountain agreed that the Wetlands Agent should also be present during the construction. Langolis said he is going to clean the infiltrator pipe first and see if that improves conditions.

Bushey expressed concern that the basin size would be decreased because of the basin divider taking up space in the basin. Bushey asked if the basin performance would be compromised. Banning said this is an emergency and needs to be dealt with. Langolis said he wants to clean out the pipe first and clean out some silt and hopes to get him to the next budget so he has the funding to get a different system designed.

Commissioners agreed that this situation is an emergency and the plan seems feasible.

3. Basin maintenance at intersection of Shanda Ln. & Lee Ln.

Langolis reviewed the location of a detention basin and the location of a house. Langolis said there is a 15-inch pipe with riprap goes down to a 6-inch pipe and then into a control valve and the water is not flowing. Langolis said he needs to pump the water down and is currently 3.5-4 feet. Langolis said the riprap needs to be dug out and also remove some trees to improve the water flows. Langolis said the basin needs to be pumped into a nearby brook. The plan is to wait until the ground freezes to work on the basin outfall. Langolis said the Goose Lane pond could not handle the water and that the basin is impacting a near by home's sunroom. Commissioners discussed the town drainage easements. Langolis said a complete cleanout and redesign is in next year's budget but this requires an emergency repair.

Commissioners agreed that this situation is an emergency and the plan seems feasible.

4. Drainage project at 94 Tolland Green.

Langolis reviewed the project (previously discussed with the Commission). The planned detention basin cannot be built at this time because of the soil conditions (not wetlands, but wet soils consisting of organic soil originating from many years of barn cleanings and the extremely wet year). Langolis explained that he was under a court order to control the water by the end of January and that, as a minimum, he needed to install the required pipe to discharge water. His plan is to discharge the water into a shallow basin surrounded by silt fence and hay bales, the initial flow of water would be directed at a large rock to break the velocity. After passing through the silt fence the water would flow through a hundred feet of tall grass or more before it flowed into a wetland. Bushey asked what problem was. Langolis said the basin overflows and the water flows across a property owner's driveway. Lowrey suggested the pipe be monitored for flow rates and said that the basin and silt fenced needed to be check regularly and frequently until the area dried out enough to complete the basin.

2. Discussion of procedures for Permits for Town Maintenance projects.

Lowrey reviewed the list of projects and supplies and materials. Lafountain asked if it had been updated. Langolis said that he added one item since it was last reviewed. Lafountain asked Lowrey to send out the updated copy to the Commissioners. Lowrey reviewed the maintenance log. Lowrey also reviewed his erosion control recommendations and provided copies to the commissioners for their review. Banning said she thought the log was well done. Lowrey and Commissioners reviewed that this discussion is preliminary. Commissioners expressed gratitude to Langolis for his contributions to this process. Lowrey said he would draft a procedure to be discussed at the next meeting.

3. Discussion about Tankerhoosen River Watershed Plan

Commissioners discussed that there are new woodchips entering the brook. Lafountain requested that Lowrey check the site. Bushey reviewed some grant sources and some possibilities. Lowrey said he would contact the

agricultural extension and see what might be available. Bushey also mentioned that the Nature Conservancy might be willing to provide matching funds. Lafountain requested Bushey create a list. Bushey said that grants would require matching and could be "in-kind" and could include labor including the administration of the grant.

**RECEIPT OF APPLICATIONS:** None

**OTHER COMMISSION BUSINESS**

1. Correspondence
2. Other Commission Business
3. Adjourn

Banning/Bushey: motion to adjourn meeting

Meeting adjourned 8:37pm

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "June Kausch".

June Kausch  
Clerk, Inland Wetlands Commission