

**CHESHIRE INLAND WETLANDS AND WATERCOURSES COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2017
TOWN HALL 84 SOUTH MAIN STREET
COUNCIL CHAMBERS 7:30 P.M.**

Members present: Robert de Jongh, Charles Dimmick, Earl Kurtz, Kerrie Dunne and Will McPhee (arriving at 7:31 pm).

Member not present: Thom Norback and Dave Brzozowski.

Staff: Suzanne Simone.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman de Jongh called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The pledge of allegiance was recited.

III. ROLL CALL

Ms. Dunne called the roll.

Members present were Robert de Jongh, Charles Dimmick, Earl Kurtz, Kerrie Dunne and Will McPhee (arriving at 7:31 pm).

IV. DETERMINATION OF QUORUM

Chairman de Jongh determined there were enough members present for a quorum.

V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES Regular Meeting – October 17, 2017

Chairman de Jongh called for a motion to approve the regular meeting minutes from the October 17, 2017 meeting.

Motion: To approve the minutes from the October 17, 2017 regular meeting with corrections: pg. 1 change “All present receipted the pledge of allegiance” to “The pledge of allegiance was recited”; pg. 2 L44 “compliant” to “complaint”; pg. 3 L16 “sight” to “site”; pg. 4 L17 “too” to “two”; L 36 “their” to “they’re”; pg.5 L9 “abandon” to “abandoned”, L26

“abandon” to “abandoned”; pg. 8 L21 delete “they”, L27 “hey” to “they”; Pg. 14 L5 “soil” to “solar”, L35 “wonders” to “wanders”.

Moved by Mr. Kurtz. Seconded by Ms. Dunne. Motion approved unanimously by Commission members present.

VI. COMMUNICATIONS

Ms. Simone reviewed the following communications:

1. Bond release request for 1430 Highland Avenue, Educational Playcare

This communication was reviewed. Ms. Simone stated this item is on the agenda under new business.

2. Public Works Drainage Notification Form – *handed out tonight*

Ms. Simone explained the Commission received a public works drainage notification form to remove sediment and stabilize a drainage area on Talmadge Road.

VII. INSPECTION REPORTS

1. Written Inspections

Ms. Simone stated there were no written inspections.

2. Staff Inspections

Ms. Simone reported on the following staff inspections:

- a. Cheshire Academy – Academy Road

Ms. Simone stated there was a staff inspection of a property on Academy Road at the site of the Cheshire Academy project.

Ms. Simone reported they’re continuing provide their erosion control inspection reports which were stipulated by the Commission.

Ms. Simone said when she went to the site it was after a heavy rain storm we had had and she found that all of the erosion controls were up and functioning; and the storm water detention basin was created

and was already heavily vegetated and stabilized with grass so there were no concerns on that site.

b. 228 Old Lane Road

Ms. Simone stated there was an inspection of Old Lane Road and they received their certificate of occupancy.

c. Subdivision on Coleman Road

Ms. Simone said there was an inspection at the subdivision on Coleman Road – this was something the Commission had approved of a year ago. She explained an erosion control in one area was compromised and has since been restored and reinforced with hay bales.

d. Mountain Road

Ms. Simone said there was a staff inspection on Mountain Road and is the subject of an enforcement action which has been an ongoing thing.

Ms. Simone said she did inspection and the retaining wall is installed and the two trees that were required to be planted in the upland review area have been planted.

Ms. Simone stated there were some issues that she emailed Ed Barnett about today and inform him of what she observed; the area south of the detention area that is already roughed out on the property - that soil is not stabilized and with the heavy rain there has been some erosion – it's not getting into the wetland area its getting into the storm area so she did indicate to him that she should put erosion controls up so that will make his job a lot easier when he finalizes that grade of the detention basin and he won't be fighting that soil that had eroded.

e. 70 Strollo Court

Ms. Simone explained there was an inspection of 70 Strollo Court. She said Commission members may be aware of the email that she sent out today – if not she has copies if anyone is interested to read.

Ms. Simone said basically this is the slope behind 70 Strollo Court which was subject of a cease and desist previously. She said a neighbor had contacted her after a rain event – there was further erosion.

Ms. Simone said when she went out to the site she observed that the hay bales at the top of the slope had been removed which is something that she was aware of and something that she thought in concert with Ryan McEvoy that it worked for timing to remove those hay bales and put grass seed down to get the grass stabilized.

Ms. Simone said with the amount of the water received got into one of the armored channels which is on the west side of the slope and it eroded the sandy material that was underneath the rip rap and it moved it down the slope and it was captured by silt fence.

Ms. Simone said also behind lot 80 there's an open space area where equipment previously had gone in to try to get sediment out of the water course at the first failure and it left a slight rut and water was apparently channelizing down in that area picking up debris and depositing that against hay bales and silt fence.

Ms. Simone reported that no sediment got into the watercourse – it was all captured by the erosion controls.

Ms. Simone said as a remedy – they put up stone check dams in that area behind 80 Strollo Court – they put up two stone check dams that run perpendicular to the slope to slow down the water so it would not channelize in that slight depression – they reinforced the silt fence, put up more hay bales – also they removed all the sediment by hand and took it off site - all of the material that had acclimated.

Ms. Simone said to help stabilize the armored channel they removed the rip rap and then installed bank run gravel and compacted it and then put the rip rap back in place and all this was done without eliminating any of the established vegetation on the slope.

Ms. Simone stated the grass has germinated all along that slope – it's already a couple of inches high so all of that area held so it's

just in this one area and hopefully now with the compacted gravel underneath rip that that won't be a problem further.

Ms. Simone said she was happy to report that it was all captured by the silt fence so there was no problem there.

Mr. Kurtz asked if they did this work because you told them to or because they wanted it done.

Ms. Simone explained she worked in concert with Ryan; Ryan went to the site and made recommendations – she went to the site and made other recommendations and contacted Steve Bowman and he did all of the recommendations.

Ms. Simone said the job that was done on that armored channel was pretty impressive – to remove all that rip rap and not disturb the established grass nearby was really a well done job.

Dr. Dimmick thanked Suzanne and said it was a good report and follow up.

Chairman de Jongh said if it made sense to reach out to the applicant and express our appreciation for their prompt.

Ms. Simone stated she did already – she did contact Steve.

Chairman de Jongh said that certainly goes a long way in reinforcing a good working relationship with the applicant.

Ms. Simone stated she contacted him individually and also copied him (Steve Bowman) on the email he sent out to Mr. Mowers.

f. Crestwood Drive – John Ricci

Ms. Simone they received a complaint about a property on Crestwood Drive – one of the new lots that was created by John Ricci.

Ms. Simone explained the concern was it may be a zoning issue and they'll have to follow up on. She said that someone is keeping equipment – a little Bobcat and maybe a trailer on the property near the wetlands. She said it appears as though their doing some sight work along their driveway which is far from the wetlands and that's something we're going to keep an eye on.

g. Quinnipiac River

Ms. Simone said she just wanted to notify the Commission about the discussion having to do with the Quinnipiac River at the waterline and it's still be discussed and research has been recently done to find the existing depth of cover on the active waterline and then how to add further cover; and there's been discussion about using Gabion baskets.

Ms. Simone said she's been on conference calls with US Fish and Wildlife, DEEP and Meriden.

Dr. Dimmick commented about the use of Gabion blocks.

h. West Johnson Avenue at Peck Lane

Ms. Simone said just as an observation and not an inspection – as she was working on getting new maps for the Farmington Trail – Linear Trail and she was at the corner of Johnson and Peck and she observe that Mr. Carmody had extended his agricultural use to the property where the blue/purple house is and he expressed that's what the property was going to be used for.

Ms. Simone said we were contacted in our office and people were asking if he'll be cutting the trees and he didn't do anything in place.

Ms. Simone said she wanted to put on the record that she did observe he does have crops there.

Chairman de Jongh asked about the Academy Road/ in the vicinity of Bishop Farms property where there's a large house near the corner near Academy Road – he asked if all the erosion controls were in place because that was a sensitive area (located to the west of that house).

Ms. Simone yes – they have been in place and she knew they were working on the interior of the house and they're doing some work towards the front of the house and they've been and continue to be in place (the erosion controls).

Chairman de Jongh said he drives by that area and wants to make sure they haven't explained that area.

Ms. Simone said they haven't based on the inspections she's seen.

VIII. ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS

1. Notice of Violation/Cease and Desist Order SC 12/06/16
House 2 Home Construction, c/o Mr. Edward Barnett
Unauthorized Activities in a Regulated Wetland Area
509 Mountain Road
Assessor's Map 62, Lot 4

Chairman de Jongh said staff had indicated there were staff inspections on this site and this item would remain on the agenda for continued monitoring.

2. Notice of Violation/Cease and Desist Order SC 5/16/17
Unauthorized Activities in Upland Review Area SC 6/06/17
Luis Rivera and Joanna Kozak SC 6/20/17
1392 Cheshire Street SC 7/05/17
Assessor's Map 30, Lot 17 SC 7/18/17
SC 8/01/17
SC 9/05/17

Ms. Simone explained this is the site that received a permit after the fact for the patio and hot tub and also they had put in the plantings that were required along the non-encroachment line.

Ms. Simone said it was established at the meeting and she would monitor site and again in the spring and monitor to make sure they abandon that lawn area.

Ms. Simone said so if the Commission wants to keep this on the agenda we can do that or she can schedule it that it's something she can do (inspect) in the spring.

Chairman de Jongh said he thought it made sense to keep this item on the agenda.

IX. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There were no unfinished business items to discuss.

X. NEW BUSINESS

1. **Bond Release Request** **APP 2014-028B**
Educational Playcare
1430 Highland Avenue

Ms. Simone stated this item has been inspected, it's been stabilized and they have their CO.

Motion:

That the Cheshire Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission has considered the request for bond release by Educational Playcare, c/o Gerald Pastor for erosion control bond stipulated as part of CIWWC Permit #2014-028 issued January 20, 2015 and finds the following:

That staff has inspected the area and verifies that all areas are generally stabilized and all conditions of the permit grant have been generally met.

Therefore, the Commission grants the bond release request for the erosion control bond.

Moved by Mr. Kurtz. Seconded by Mr. McPhee. Motion approved unanimously by Commission members present.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:43 pm by consensus of Commission members present.

Respectfully submitted:

**Carla Mills
Recording Secretary
Cheshire Inland Wetland and Watercourse Commission**