

**CHESHIRE INLAND WETLANDS AND WATERCOURSES COMMISSION
PUBLIC HEARING
TUESDAY, JULY 3, 2018
TOWN HALL – 84 SOUTH MAIN STREET
Council Chambers AT 7:30 P.M.**

I. CALL TO ORDER

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

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, Kerrie Dunne, Earl Kurtz and Thom Norback. Staff: Suzanne Simone. Members not present: Will McPhee and Dave Brzozowski.

IV. DETERMINATION OF QUORUM

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

Ms. Dunne read the legal call to open the public hearing for the following:

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| 1. Permit Application | APP | 2018-010 |
| Gwen Macdonald | DOR | 5/15/18 |
| South Meriden Road and Sindall Road | PH | 7/03/18 |
| Waterline Removal and Reinforcement of Streambed | MAD | 8/07/18 |
| | FT | 6/27/18 |

Chairman de Jongh explained to all present the public hearing protocol.

Gwen Macdonald, Director of Habitat restoration for Save the Sound Green Projects and Michael Chelminski, CT licensed and professional engineer with Stantec Consulting Services Inc. were present on behalf of the applicant.

Denis Waz, Public Utility Director for the City of Meriden representing the City of Meriden was present.

The Commission was in receipt of project documents and plans outlining the proposed project details.

Ms. Macdonald provided background information (and the previous Carpenters Dam project in Southington, CT) and habitat benefits of the project: she explained funds were received for the project of the Fish and Wildlife Service to conduct a multiple barrier removal on the

Quinnipiac River – in 2016 they removed a barrier in Southington, CT and in Meriden, CT.

Ms. Macdonald explained the removal of the inactive 30” waterline would restore 16 miles of habitat for migratory fish and mostly the full main stem of the Quinnipiac River to sea; they have permits in with Department of Environmental Energy and Environmental Protection and the US Army Corp of Engineers and have received notification of intent to permit that.

Ms. Macdonald explained about the 3 components of the project and project purpose – one being the removal of the 30” inactive water main – the protection of a 10” active water main that is upstream of that inactive line owed by the City of Meriden Public Utilities and associated bank restoration to the right of the bank on South Meriden Road that had been eroded because of the 30” inactive water main.

Ms. Macdonald provided details regarding the outcome of the Natural Diversity Database – there are Wood Turtles that have identified as possibly being in this area by the DEEP –there is no know population on this site but recommendations were made as part of a previous project done in the area for a turtle protection plan as described in the plan materials presented for the project.

Ms. Macdonald stated there are utilities in this area and a AT&T fiber optic line noted on the plans – they (AT&T) will be contacted and she will coordinate with them to ensure there will be no impact to the AT&T fiber optic lines as part of this project.

Ms. Macdonald talked about the 1,000SF of stream bank that will be restored as part of this project – that includes material that will be relocated when the 30” inactive line is removed – the material surrounding the inactive water line will be replaced and used as the base of the new stream bank.

Ms. Macdonald said the restored stream bank design has been reviewed by the Army Corp of Engineers and have tentatively approved the bioengineering practices there and what they’d like to see onsite including filter fabric and native plant material and seeding; the plan has also been approved by the property owner of that property and they have a memorandum of agreement with the property owner; they are also in the process of entering into an agreement with the City of Meriden for the portion of the project that takes place in the City of Meriden.

Ms. Macdonald said the other component of the project is the construction of an 80’ riffle that will be protecting the active 10” water main on this property as described by Michael Chelminski, the design engineer.

Mr. Chelminski addressed the Commission. He talked about the Carpenter Dam project that they have worked on for the last two years – there a number of partners – the primary infrastructure that they are protecting is a water line owned by the City of Meriden that provides water back to the Town of Cheshire – it was determined that the 30” inactive water line was undermining the active 10” water main upstream of that – the concern was the exposed 30” main was potentially causing the erosion of the 10” water main and a barrier for upstream fish passage.

Mr. Chelminski talked about the protection of the area and of the fish passage – this required working with the City of Meriden on the 30” water main pipe and active 10” water line returning water to Cheshire; stake holders – the CT DEEP, the US Army Corp of Engineers and US Fish and Wildlife’s primary concern is fish passage and they have all provide technical input on this design; local stake holder are the property owner Mr. Huebert who expressed interest in the restoration of his bank along his side of the river and plantings.

Mr. Chelminski talked about alternatives to protect his site – the selected alternative which is presented in the plans the Commission has is intended to minimize the amount of impact on the river while protecting the buried 10” main based on accepted engineering practice of placing 4” of fill over that: the project will result in a net reduction of the evaluation of fill in the river upstream of the exposed 30” inactive main is at the elevation of 101’ – the proposed elevation design is at 99’ – which allows for fish passage and elevates downstream effect: the inactive 30” main is curved relative to the river – the consequence of that is that it acts like a weir and tends to steer water to Cheshire’s side of the river and that plays into the erosion downstream of the exposed 30” main and at the location of former bridge abutments located in Cheshire adjacent to Mr. Huebert’s property.

Tape Malfunction – remaining minutes recorded from recording secretary’s notes:

Dr. Dimmick asked about the lowering of the water elevation by 2’ and its upstream effects.

Mr. Chelminski explained what effects the lowering of the water elevation would have.

Ms. Simone asked for a clarification regarding the revised plans received today, July 2, 2018.

Mr. Chelminski said two new sets of plans were provided for the record.

Commission members viewed the revised plans

Denis Waz, Public Utility Director for the City of Meriden, addressed the Commission. He reviewed with Commission members the scope of the proposed project and its proximity to the City of Meriden: the City of Meriden is working Ms. Macdonald and her group on an agreement so the project can proceed.

Chairman de Jongh asked about two large trees that were seen on the field trip – it was noted there was no problem with the trees and 10” pipe.

Chairman de Jongh opened the public hearing up for questions or comments from the public and Commission members.

There were no public questions or comments and no other questions or comments from Commission members.

Chairman de Jongh closed the public hearing at 7:57 pm.

V. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:38 pm by consensus of Commission members present.

Respectfully submitted:

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