

**CHESHIRE INLAND WETLANDS AND WATERCOURSES COMMISSION  
PUBLIC HEARING  
TUESDAY, AUGUST 7, 2018  
TOWN HALL 84 SOUTH MAIN STREET  
COUNCIL CHAMBERS – 7:30 P.M.**

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**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman de Jongh called the public hearing 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 at the were Robert de Jongh, Charles Dimmick, Dave Brzozowski, Kerrie Dunne, Earl Kurtz, Will McPhee and Thom Norback. Staff: Suzanne Simone.

**IV. DETERMINATION OF QUORUM**

There were enough members present for a quorum.

**V. BUSINESS**

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

1.	Permit Application	APP	2018-017
	Helm Family Investments I, LLC	DOR	6/19/18
	Lexington Court	PH	7/17/18
		PH	8/07/18
	Site Plan – Wetlands Crossing	MAD	9/11/18

Mr. Norback recused himself from the public hearing at 7:32 pm.

Chairman de Jongh reviewed with those present to public hearing process.

Jennifer Beno, Wetland Biologist and Biologist of Soil Science & Environmental Services, Inc., in Rocky Hill, CT and George Cotter, engineering from of CW International were present.

Mr. Cotter explained he submitted revised plans last week and another set of revised plans submitted for the record, the plans were dated today, August 8, 2018.

Commission members reviewed revised plans submitted by Mr. Cotter.

Mr. Cotter reported that since the last meeting he received comments from staff – six points that he addressed in a memo sent to (Suzanne) last week; and Jen (Beno) revised her report to represent the 20' they were from the wetlands.

Mr. Cotter stated they also revised the easement that they'll file if approved (file in the land records).

Mr. Cotter explained they moved the driveway 22.5' away from the vernal pool to give them 42.5' from the edge of the fill material in the wetland to the vernal pool; the access way was abandon in 1995 when they reconfigured the lot; a noted was added about the pipes; he addressed the concern about the watershed; the crossing would allow water to go through the pipes and there are plenty of openings for the pipes – and the rip rap had a 40% void ratio; plantings have been added and Jen (Beno) has provided in writing a planting plan that she can explain – she has proposed a very diverse planting plan in the upland and wetland area protecting the vernal pool; the septic system on the larger overall map.

Dr. Dimmick asked about Ms. Beno's report dated August 3, 2018 – he asked if the applicant would be okay if the recommendations were stipulated in the permit – recommendations on page 10 and on page 12 (the removal of the invasive species and inspections made after the plants to ensure their survival, etc.).

Mr. Cotter stated they had no problem with that.

Ms. Dunne said so they don't work during the amphibian breeding time.

Jen Beno addressed the Commission. She said it was recommended the work be done in the summer months when the soils would be drier at that time.

Chairman de Jongh said so we are talking about incorporating the recommendations on page 10 and 12.

Mr. Cotter agreed to the incorporation of the recommendations on page 10 and 12.

Chairman de Jongh asked that the incorporation of the recommendations agreed to by Mr. Cotter be made part the record.

Ms. Simone asked about the location the pipes are proposed to be placed; she asked if they will not be directing water to that area – that this is just a flat broad area.

Mr. Cotter stated that was correct.

Ms. Beno provide a quick summary of what occurred since the last meeting – the revised the July 16 report to reflect the 20' instead of the 10' distance from vernal pool to the edge of the clearing – the new date of the report is August 3, 2018 and was submitted for the record; she also provided information regarding the Fingernail Clams; she prepared a planting plan and sketch plan and a brief narrative – all placed in the file.

Ms. Beno spoke about the plan to enhance the existence of native species present on the property – and supplement with the same or commentary species so they know there will a pretty good survival rate; she spoke about utilizing the wetland crossing planting plan with a revised date of August 7, 2018; she spoke about the under-story plantings and wildlife habitat just south of the proposed road crossing – edge of clearing and vernal pool and an area to the north of the crossing.

Ms. Beno talked about the proposed wetland plantings between the silt fence and edge of clearing; she spoke about groupings of other plantings and reviewed the planting list based on their ability to survive and talked about the saving existing plant species and recommended buffer plantings; she commented about the reasons for the selection of specific plantings and specific placement as well as plant substitutions.

Ms. Beno talked about the removal of invasive species and invasive species monitoring around installed shrubs.

Ms. Simone asked about the planting plan and if it was recommended that year one – spring and fall - would focus on the removal of invasives and then plan on planting natives the next year so they have two shots of removal the invasives and then working on

establishing the shrubs or did she (Ms. Beno) think they should be concurrent – removing and planting.

Ms. Beno said it depends on the construction sequence but she thought going in there and removing the major invasives would be the best would be the best option; and based on timing do the spring plantings.

Ms. Simone asked if there were invasive species where she recommended herbicides to try to control them once they cut and remove them.

Ms. Beno said not in the wetland areas.

Chairman de Jongh asked about the memorandum sent out July 31 – about the mortality rate and if they planting mortality was greater than 10% the plantings should be replaced – his question was who is going to do the monitoring of those plantings and was that after the invasives were taken out and he asked what the time table was on this.

Ms. Beno said the invasive species maintenance should be concurrent with the inspections – she said she could do the inspection or whoever they want to hire to do the inspections as long as it's written up in the stipulations – it should be mandatory.

Chairman de Jongh said if this is going to be a stipulation – who's going do the monitoring and how is the Commission going to be made aware of as a Commission that the regulation is being adhered to and monitored.

Ms. Beno said it could be part of the report requirement – that the biologist that goes out there to inspect – to inspect the invasive species so that they are being monitored and maintained – recommendation can be made.

Dr. Dimmick commented that based on the list – it takes about 3 years to get rid of mustard seed.

Ms. Beno said it's very difficult to get rid of invasive species – the Army Corp said it takes 5 years of monitoring.

There were no other questions or comments from the Commission or staff; there were no questions or comments from the public.

**Chairman de Jongh closed the public hearing at 7:55 pm.**

**Mr. Norback rejoined the meeting at 7:55 pm.**

**VI. ADJOURNMENT**

**The public hearing was adjourned at 7:55 pm by consensus of Commission members present.**

**Respectfully submitted:**

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