Members present: Robert de Jongh, Charles Dimmick, Matt Bowman, Kerrie Dunne (arriving at 7:31 p.m.), Earl Kurtz (arriving at 7:31 p.m.), and Sheila Fiordelisi. New Commission member Peter Talbot was also present.

Staff Present: Suzanne Simone

Ms. Sheila Fiordelisi served as secretary pro-tem.

I. CALL TO ORDER

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

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The pledge of allegiance was recited.

III. ROLL CALL

Ms. Fiordelisi called the roll.

Members present: Robert de Jongh, Charles Dimmick, Matt Bowman, Kerrie Dunne (arriving at 7:31 p.m.), Earl Kurtz (arriving at 7:31 p.m.), Sheila Fiordelisi, and Peter Talbot were present.

IV. DETERMINATION OF QUORUM

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

V. BUSINESS

Ms. Fiordelisi read the notice to open the public hearing on the following:

1. Permit Application
   Town of Cheshire
   Highland Avenue
   Dredging of Weeks Pond
   APP   DOR   PH   MAD
   #2010-009  5/18/10  06/15/10  7/22/10
David Arzt, Project Manager with Cardinal Engineering and Joseph Michelangelo, Town Engineer and Director of Public Works were present on behalf of the applicant.

Mr. Arzt addressed the Commission.

Mr. Arzt informed the Commission that he was the project manager with Cardinal Engineering for this project for the Town of Cheshire. The project is for the maintenance dredging of Weeks Pond.

Mr. Arzt showed the Commission the map outlining the existing conditions of the site. He showed on the plans the location of Castle Glen Road, the pond, Highland School, and Route 10.

Mr. Arzt pointed out the Connecticut wetlands on the plans (marked with green spikes) as well as the Federal wetlands (green dotted line); he explained the blue line was the 100 year flood plain which does over-top the road. He showed the location of an existing culvert; he said this area is what is called the forebay of the pond – there is a lot of sediment in there – about 3.5’ to 4’ and the proposal is to dredge that out.

Mr. Arzt showed on the plans the area that is proposed to be dredged – the plan is to construct an access road and a haul road, a stone wall to keep the water out of the sediment and put hay bales in side of that as a dewatering area and they will construct the access ramp which is rip-rap and will have process aggregate on top of that which is a normal type thing for road base; that will be left in place in case there is future maintenance required for dredging; this will actually provide a platform that will hold the weight of the equipment while they are taking the sediment out of the pond.

Mr. Arzt stated that it is about a 1’ above the normal high water – the normal water level and then they will have a sediment check dam which is rip-rap which is broken stone and that would be about a 1’ below the water surface elevation; so the sediment that does come in the pond will remain in one area (as shown on the plan) in the future and not get into the open water of the pond.

Mr. Arzt showed pictures of the existing conditions of the site. He explained the location the pictures were taken; he stated that the wooded area to the south of the sewer easement is where the access road is, is where they are going to put the sediment to dewater and that is where that sediment would remain.

Mr. Arzt showed a photo of a floating boom from another project – he said the photo shows a turbidity type curtain which they will be using to
maintain the sediment – he said the water would get stirred up a little bit as they do the dredging – they proposed to keep that maintained using a sediment boom.

Mr. Arzt showed on the plan/photos the area of the pond that is proposed to be dredged – he showed the location of the access road by the sewer and the area where the access ramp would be.

Mr. Arzt said he would very quickly like to go through the staging of the project and how it would be constructed.

Mr. Arzt said stage one would be to install the silt fence and the turbidity boom and construct the stone wall, put the hay bales around that, cut the trees in the area, construct the access road and the haul road, and construct a portion of the sediment check dam.

Mr. Arzt said in stage two they would move the turbidity curtain and finish up the sediment check dam.

Mr. Arzt said in stage three they would bring a crane in with a drag line – the turbidity curtain would be moved and the material would be excavated in a specific area – all the work will be done within the floating turbidity curtain to keep the sediment contained. He said that trucks will used to move the sediment about 150’ to the west and place it in an area designated on the plan’ the turbidity curtain would then be moved and the next area would be dredged, sediment allowing the water flow away from the dredging – when the dredging is completed they will seed the area and it will have a normal grass seed and then there will be about a 20% mix with wildflowers.

Mr. Arzt concluded this presentation by asking if there were any questions.

Dr. Dimmick stated he needed to get clear where most of the sediment is now coming from that is filling the area – he stated that it needed to be put on the record.

Mr. Arzt stated that the sediment is coming down Honey Pot Brook through the 72” culvert and when it comes down the brook, the brook has enough velocity to maintain the sediment – when it goes through the pipe and gets into the open water it expands and its really like what you would put at the end of a normal pipe to try to collect any sediment that might be in the pipe, unfortunately they are not trying to collect sediment but it ends up here and what they are trying to do is maintain it in the forebay area and not let it go into the pond.
Dr. Dimmick said so there is no independent drain going into that pond – all of its coming down from Honey Pot Brook.

Mr. Arzt stated that was correct.

Mr. Bowman asked about the drainage from Highland Avenue coming off probably starting at the Waverly going north – that runs in along the Highland School entrance – does that end up in this pond also.

Mr. Michelangelo explained that it did – he said there was a watercourse which runs to the south of that access road by the Highland School access; he stated that formally got quite a bit of sediment.

Mr. Michelangelo said he thought the last time the Town cleaned that was probably about six years ago and that used to be a large source but that doesn’t get silted very much at all.

Mr. Michelangelo said the next largest discharge from the State system is just south of the elderly housing complex on east Mitchell Drive – he stated there was a large discharge there to the Honey Pot Brook and there are no major ones along Route 10 other than – those are the two major ones – the other watersheds that contribute are the Garthwait property, Cheshire Academy, Perry’s Farm; he stated again there were two major discharges from Route 10.

Dr. Dimmick explained that one of the reasons he asked was because immediately to the west and showing on the applicant’s map they have this other stream going from north to south under there and then flowing into the Honey Pot Brook.

The location of the stream was noted on the map.

Dr. Dimmick asked where the flow came from that goes into there.

Mr. Arzt said as far as they know that is just a low area – it might take some of the water from the parking area of the school but as far as he knew it does not take any water off of Route 10.

Mr. Bowman said the reason why he asked his previous question was because in front of the dental office and eye glass office on Highland Avenue there are two detention areas and both of those are starting to fill up and when they do fill up – it’s going to be running right into this pond.

Mr. Bowman said he did not know who’s responsible for cleaning the detention areas.
Mr. Michelangelo said he thought they (the detention areas) were on private property but they will make sure they are looked at.

Mr. Bowman said to make sure they are cleaned because he thought they were actually helping the situation further down.

Chairman de Jongh asked if there were any other questions or comments from Commission members or staff.

There were no other questions or comments from Commission members or staff.

Chairman de Jongh asked if there were any questions or comments from the audience.

There were no questions or comments from the audience.

Chairman de Jongh closed the public hearing on this item at 7:39 p.m.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

The public hearing was adjourned at 7:39 p.m. by the consensus of Commission members present.

Respectfully submitted:

Carla Mills, Recording Secretary
Cheshire Inland Wetland and Watercourse Commission