

June 25, 2015

Call to Order: The monthly meeting the Sterling Inland Wetland and Watercourses Commission (IW&WC) was called to order at 7:03 pm by Chairman Roger Gibson. Other members present- Jennifer Mossner, Kimberly Gunn, Brad Herman, and Alternate James Hawkins, Jr.

Members absent- Maggie Chaplin, Robert McLevy, Richard McGarry, and Alternate Dori Cote.

Alternate J. Hawkins was seated for R. McLevy.

Staff present- Russell Gray, Joseph Theroux, and Dale Boisselle

Also present- Richard LaFleche.

Audience of Citizens: No comment.

Additions to Agenda: None.

Approval of Minutes: J. Mossner made a motion, seconded by J. Hawkins, to approve the monthly meeting minutes of 5/28/2015 as written and presented. All voted in favor of the motion.

Correspondence: Correspondence received was from the CT DEEP outlining online courses and containing a voucher to attend seminars in the future that have not yet been scheduled.

Unfinished Business:

Application by Richard LaFleche for a Proposed Driveway for 0 Sterling Road (Route 14): Agent Theroux reported that since the last meeting there has been no activity on the site. Prior to last meeting R. LaFleche had gone to the property and leveled out some ruts, placed log corduroy in the large wetland crossing and put down some seed and mulch to help reestablish vegetation on the site while the cease and desist order was in place. Since then he has been staying out of the property. All Commission members present attended the site walk either on June 17 or earlier today, and that was the first opportunity the Commission had to see what damage had occurred due to the heavy snow we had last winter. Agent Theroux explained that as you look at the plans you can see that there are three (3) stream crossings and over two hundred (200) feet of disturbed wetlands on the main skid trail. He explained further that generally when we see these crossings they are corduroyed or temporarily bridged to protect the wetlands to help prevent erosion and sedimentation from impacting the wetlands. In this case, the proper procedures were not in place to protect the wetlands. He added that another wetland on the property had been significantly disturbed which was not shown on R. LaFleche's original and amended cutting plans. It was noted that during the 2/12/2015 meeting the applicant was to submit a surety bond in the amount of \$6,000 to cover erosion and sedimentation measures or remediation of the wetlands and to date, the bond has not been received. The Commission also noted that when they were on the site, the first two (2) stream crossings were good, with corduroy being completed properly and holding up well. There are ruts in the upland area that had been graded. In the third (3rd) wetland area, there are tracks that went through the wetlands and should have been corduroyed. There are five (5) paths that are several hundred feet in length, constituting a significant impact on the wetlands. The Commission felt that there is significant damage with this new activity. This is a direct impact to the wetlands and if it had been done correctly the damage would have been lessened.

It was the consensus of the Commission that this was not done properly from the beginning; and due to the extent of the impacts to the wetlands that any further proposed activities would meet the definition of a regulated activity and the wetlands should be restored. Agent Theroux was asked to provide a rough estimate of the cost of remediation to bring the wetlands back to original condition. J. Theroux stated that it would be approximately \$1,000 for equipment. Time and labor to reseed and mulch would be between one thousand to \$1,000 and \$1,500 for an approximate total of \$2,500. The original bond was stated at \$6,000, anticipating that the Town may need to hire a soil scientist prior to completing remediation on the site.

K. Gunn made a motion, seconded by B. Herman to continue the cease and desist order until Mr. Lafleche submits an application to remediate the wetlands and carry out any further activities on the property. Four (4) voted in favor, one (1) opposed. Motion Carried.

New Business: None.

Agents Reports:

1. Violations: No new violations.
2. Other Issues: a) J. Theroux reported that he issued the permit renewal to Scott Levine for four (4) years. This would be the final renewal as the permit is good for a maximum of fourteen (14) years. The permit renewal expires 9/22/2019. b) J. Theroux approved the modified septic system plan for 1147 Plainfield Pike per last meeting as the Northeast District Department of Health has agreed to copy the Commission on all inspections and notify them when they approve the final permit to discharge. c) Falls Creek Farm work should be wrapped up by July and a site walk will be scheduled at that time.

Any Other Business to Come Before the Commission: None.

Adjournment: J. Mossner made a motion, seconded by K. Gunn, to adjourn at 7:43 p.m. All voted in favor of the motion.

Attest: _____
Dale Boisselle, General Office Assistant