

INLAND WETLANDS AGENCY
TOWN OF WOODBRIDGE
SPECIAL MEETING OF JULY 1, 2020

A special meeting of the Woodbridge Inland Wetlands Agency was commenced via WebEx at 7:34 pm on Wednesday, July 1, 2020 by Acting Chairman Jack Kurek.

Agency members participating in the WebEx Meeting were: Acting Chairman Jack Kurek, Barry Josephs, David Speranzini, Josh Goldberg and alternate Jean Webber. Chairman Robert Blythe joined the meeting at 7:41 pm. Alternate Josh Lemon did not participate in the meeting. Acting Agency Enforcement Officer (AEO) Kristine Sullivan also participated in the meeting.

PUBLIC HEARING

Patrick Lewis: 163 Center Road

Application for After the Fact Permit for Pool House

The public hearing on the subject application was opened by Acting Chairman Kurek. The public hearing had been schedule in response to a petition signed by more than 25 residents of Woodbridge over the age of 18.

Notice of the public hearing had been posted on the Inland Wetland Agency page of the Town Website as required by Governor Lamont's Executive Order # 7.1.19.c.

The applicant also provided notice of the public hearing to the abutting property owners as required by Section 9.2 of the Inland Wetland Regulations.

The Acting Chairman read into the hearing record a letter that had been received via email from abutting property owner Johanna Lasala of 11 Ledge Road. Prior to the special meeting that letter had been forwarded to the Agency members and the applicant.

Applicant Patrick Lewis participated in the WebEx meeting and shared a copy of the site plan submitted with his application and photographs of the pool house and surrounding area. In his presentation and in response to questions by Agency members he noted:

- The completed pool house was located in an upland area.
- All necessary building related permits were obtained for the pool house.
- After the pool house was completed he had planted trees towards the neighboring property to the west with mulch underneath them and adjacent to the pool house and graveled the area adjacent to the pool house.
- Behind the row of trees which he had planted the slope stays flat for about five feet and then slopes down.
- It was his intention to have the woods grow back to within five feet of the pool house itself.
- The wetlands on the neighboring properties to the west appears marshy but there is not an active stream.
- In 2016 he had been issued an Enforcement Order regarding work on his driveway as it abuts the Wepawaug River to the front of his property.
- The site plan that he had submitted did not show topography, but it was the only survey that he had.
- The white pipes that are referenced in a letter by his neighbors at 11 Ledge Road are drains for the pool filter. They were not installed by him, but were done when the pool

was installed in 2008 by the previous property owner (based on the permit records in the building department) which was prior to his purchase of the property in 2012.

- Those pipes are “dormant” and are no longer used for the pool since he has installed a cartridge filter.
- He had not been aware that there were “listed” wetlands on the neighboring property to the west of his property.
- The site grading and roof pitch for the pool house directs drainage away from the neighboring properties to the west.
- In response to the neighbor’s letter he noted that he had no business relationships with the town itself. He added that he personally had used the services offered by the Jewish Community Center (JCC) and the Sports Center.

Chairman Robert Blythe had joined the WebEx meeting at the beginning of the hearing and suggested that before the Agency’s regular meeting on July 15, 2020 that the members of the Agency make individual visits to the site. Mr. Lewis was agreeable to having the Agency members visit the site.

*** Kurek moved to continue the public hearing until the regular meeting of the Agency on July 15, 2020.

*** Speranzini seconded

*** In favor: Blythe, Kurek, Speranzini, Josephs and Goldberg

*** Opposed: No One

*** Recused: No One

*** Abstained: No One

Approved 5-0 vote

NEW BUSINESS

Fred Ritz: 334 Rimmon Road

Application for installation of in ground swimming pool

The application was formally received by the Agency. It was accompanied by the site plan showing the location of the proposed pool, proof of certified mailing to the abutting property owners and a check for the State and Town application fee.

Applicant Fred Ritz participated in the WebEx meeting. In his presentation he noted:

- The pool would be behind the garage and less than 100’ (one hundred feet) from the onsite wetlands.
- The pool would be in an area which is flat and currently grass covered.
- The wetlands are downslope in a wooded area.
- Access for construction of the pool would be from the driveway.
- The pool would have a vinyl liner and would use a self-cleaning cartridge filter.
- Excavated material would be removed offsite.
- Water would be kept in the pool year round. A mesh cover would be used to cover the pool in the months that it is not used.
- The pool would be topped off in the spring.
- There would be no drain in the pool.

- The exact location of the pool is dependent on the location of the actual location of the septic system which has not yet been determined.

After a brief discussion the Agency members took the following action on the application.

- *** Kurek moved to defer action on the application to the Agency’s duly authorized agent, Kristine Sullivan subject to the usual stipulations, finalization of the location of the pool dependent on the septic location and the requirement for a preconstruction meeting
 - *** Speranzini seconded
 - *** In favor: Blythe, Kurek, Speranzini, Josephs and Goldberg
 - *** Opposed: No One
 - *** Recused: No One
 - *** Abstained: No One
- Approved 5-0 vote

OLD BUSINESS

Request from Bob Bishop, owner/developer of 244 Ansonia Road, to reduce the cost of the bond required by the IWA permit for the development of that parcel from \$27,319 to \$5000.

The request for the bond reduction had been received at the IWA meeting of May 20, 2020 postponed until June 3, 2020. The request had been referred to Agency members Consulting Engineer Jim Pretti, for his input as to whether the bond should be reduced and if so, to what amount since the reduction of over \$20,000 seemed a very steep reduction.

After review of Mr. Pretti’s comments and a brief discussion the Agency members took the following action on the bond reduction request:

- *** **Kurek moved to reduce the required bond to \$10,000**
 - *** **Speranzini seconded**
 - *** **In favor: Blythe, Kurek, Speranzini, Josephs and Goldberg**
 - *** **Opposed: No One**
 - *** **Recused: No One**
 - *** **Abstained: No One**
- Approved 5-0 vote**

MEETING ADJOURNMENT

- *** **Speranzini moved to adjourn the meeting**
 - *** **Kurek seconded**
 - *** **In favor: Blythe, Kurek, Speranzini, Josephs and Goldberg**
 - *** **Opposed: No One**
 - *** **Recused: No One**
 - *** **Abstained: No One**
- Approved 5-0 vote**

Respectfully submitted,

Kristine Sullivan, Acting Recording Secretary