

INLAND WETLANDS AGENCY
TOWN OF WOODBRIDGE
REGULAR MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 16, 2020 POSTPONED UNTIL
SEPTEMBER 23, 2020

The regular meeting of the Woodbridge Inland Wetlands Agency which due to the Covid 19 Pandemic had been scheduled as a WebEx meeting for September 16, 2020, had, due the unavailability of staff to run the WebEx meeting, been postponed until Wednesday, September 23, 2020. The meeting continuation was commenced via WebEx at 7:30 pm on Wednesday, September 23, 2020 by Chairman Robert Blythe.

Agency members participating in the WebEx Meeting were: Chairman Robert Blythe, Jack Kurek, Barry Josephs, Josh Goldberg and alternate Jean Webber. David Speranzini was excused. Alternate Josh Lemon did not participate in the meeting. Webber was seated in place of Speranzini. Acting Agency Enforcement Officer (AEO) Kristine Sullivan participated in the meeting.

SHOW CAUSE HEARING AND APPROPRIATE ACTION

Daniel and Lauren Esposito: 15 Wolf Tree Drive

Cease and Desist Order Regarding Tree Clearing and Grading in Wetlands and Upland Review Area

Daniel Esposito: 21 Wolf Tree Drive

Cease and Desist Order Regarding Tree Clearing and Grading in Wetlands and Upland Review Area

The Chairman called to order the Show Cause Hearing on two related Cease and Desist Orders for adjoining properties located at 15 and 21 Wolf Tree Drive owned respectively by Daniel and Lauren Esposito and Daniel Esposito.

Present for the Show Cause Hearing were Attorney Bernie Pellegrino and Mr. Daniel Esposito.

The Chairman asked the Enforcement Officer to provide an overview of the orders that were issued. AEO Sullivan reported that having received a report of large scale tree removal on Wolf Tree Drive she had observed from the public way that tree cutting, stumping and site grading had occurred on both 15 and 21 Wolf Tree Drive. At the back of 21 Wolf Tree Drive it appeared that there was very dark soil showing in graded areas indicative of peat that would be found in the adjoining wetland. She had reviewed the Town GIS mapping and found that the latest aerial photographs had showed the area that had been cleared and graded had been forested, and when overlain with the wetland mapping layer was predominately in what was shown as wetlands. She noted that the online wetland mapping was not a definitive mapping of wetlands but indicative that the work that had been done had been either directly in a wetland and/or an upland review area.

Accordingly the order had been issued and Attorney Pellegrino had responded indicating that no further work would be done and that Soil Scientist David Lord had been engaged to map the soils in the area.

Attorney Pellegrino then spoke noting:

- That he had been engaged by Mr. Esposito to assist with addressing the order.

- Had suggested that a soil scientist be engaged to clearly delineate the wetlands.
- Soil Scientist David Lord had been to the site the preceding day and would be returning next Tuesday with a bobcat machine to aid in the soils delineation because there had been some filling in the cleared areas.
- When the work had been undertaken, it had not been the intentional act of Mr. Esposito to violate the regulations.
- No further activity would be occurring on the site while the wetlands where being delineated and that information could be provided to the Agency.

At the conclusion of discussion the Agency members then took the following action:

*** **Kurek moved to Affirm the Cease and Desist Orders as issued to Daniel and Lauren Esposito for their property at 15 Wolf Tree Drive regarding tree clearing and grading in wetlands and upland review area and to Daniel Esposito for his property at 21 Wolf Tree Drive regarding tree clearing and grading in wetlands and upland review area**

*** **Webber seconded**

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

*** **Opposed: No One**

*** **Recused: No One**

*** **Abstained: No One**

Approved 5-0 vote

NEW BUSINESS

James Fortin: 33 Sanford Road

Application for improvements to areas of a hiking trail on the Town owned property at 33 Sanford Road that are in or adjacent to onsite wetlands

The application submitted by Eagle Scout candidate James Fortin for improvements to areas of a hiking trail on the Town owned property at 33 Sanford Road that are in or adjacent to onsite wetlands had been submitted on July 22, 2020 and therefore in accordance with State Statute since there had been no meetings of the Agency since July 15, 2020, had been received by default on August 26, 2020.

The application was accompanied by the site plan showing the location of the trail that would be improved, a narrative with photographs showing how the walkway would be laid in in place in areas of the trail that are wet and proof of certificate of notice mailing to the abutting property owners.

The applicant, James Fortin was present for the WebEx meeting and in discussion noted that:

- The trail improvements would cover 120' of the existing trail.
- The improvements would be the construction of a low to the ground vertical walkway.
- The walkway sections would be made of pressure treated 4" x 4" joists with 2' x 10' boards
- The walkway sections would be assembled offsite and carried in and laid in position.

Following discussion Agency members then acted on the application as follows:

***** Goldberg moved to:**
Waive the application fees for the application submitted by James Fortin for improvements to areas of a hiking trail on the Town owned property at 33 Sanford Road that are in or adjacent to onsite wetlands in accordance with Section 19.7.c of the Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Regulations since the project is a scout project on trails which is on Town owned land and to approve the subject application subject to subject to standard permit conditions and the following special condition:

- **A pre-construction meeting be held on site between the permittee, James Fortin and the Agency Enforcement Officer.**

The permit approval is based on the Agency's belief that if the approved plans and conditions of this permit are followed, there should be minimal or no impact onsite wetlands

***** Kurek seconded**

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

***** Opposed: No One**

***** Recused: No One**

***** Abstained: No One**

Approved 5-0 vote

CORRESPONDENCE

There was no correspondence to review.

SITE VISITS

No site visits needed to be scheduled.

ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS REPORT

AEO Sullivan reported that she continues to be in contact with Mr. Bryant Esparo regarding required restoration of a previously disturbed portion of 220 Seymour Road.

She also noted that applications will be coming in the new future for at least one residence and also construction of the Brewery on the south side of Bradley Road. Agency members noted that that area was of concern regarding impacts to flooding along the West River.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Action on the following meeting minutes of the Agency was deferred until the Agency's regular meeting on October 21, 2020.

- Special meeting of July 1, 2020
- Regular meeting of July 15, 2020

MEETING ADJOURNMENT

***** Kurek moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:48 pm.**

***** Webber seconded**

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

***** Opposed: No One**

***** Recused: No One**

***** Abstained: No One
Approved 5-0 vote**

Respectfully submitted,

Kristine Sullivan, Acting Recording Secretary