

Minutes: The Inland Wetlands Commission. Town of Hamden, held a Special Meeting via Zoom teleconferencing technology on Wednesday, February 16, 2023.

Commissioners in attendance: Joan Lakin (Chair), Kirk Shadle (Vice Chair), George Schneider, Jonathan Clapp, Lauren Wholey, Brad Macdowall, Tim Mack, Michael Stone.

Staff in attendance: Eugene Livshits (Town Planner), Thomas Vocelli (IWC Enforcement Officer), Camile Deans (Commission Clerk).

Commissioner Kirk Shadle called the meeting to order at 7:04 pm. Mr. Shadle took attendance, Ms. Lakin noted the Staff in attendance.

I. Public Comment Section

Commissioner Shadle called for public comments.

There were no public comments.

II. Application:

a. 23-1251

Repair and re-construction of the Belden Brook culvert-crossing on
Town of Hamden- Applicant

Stanley Road

Mr. Stephen White, Engineer with the Town of Hamden presented the application. Mr. White gave a quick agenda of what he will be talking about which included the project timeline, culvert condition, road closure plan, site plan, and timeline. He also mentioned his colleague Steve McAllister, Engineer with the Town is also present. He informed the commission that they are currently working on the site prep so that when the work starts they are ready to go. They are still working on some of the easements however they should be good to begin the week of February 21. He also shared that one of the first things they are looking to do is create a berm to isolate the culvert on the southern side of the crossing so that culvert does not overflow. They will reset the pipe that's there as well. He went through a number of steps they will take. Mr. White also explained that once they start the project, there will be no vehicular access, they will also be using concrete barriers to isolate the area. In addition, they will have proper detour and road closure signs.

Mr. Shadle asked the commission if they had any questions, Commissioner Clapp had a comment, he stated that had been at the site that afternoon and he realized that construction had begun on the two access upstream and downstream. Mr. White explained that they were clearing the trees and setting gravel to make it easier for the work to begin. He also said he did reach out to Tom Vocelli who authorize the removal of trees where necessary. Mr. White asked Commissioner Clapp if he believes the work is more than they authorized, Mr. Clapp explained that the site is quite messy and there is a lot of sediment in the brook and he knows those things have to be removed before the project starts.

Commissioner Lakin had a question, she wanted to know why they decided to use berms instead of sandbags and what would make them stable. Mr. White explained why they chose to use berms he also said that he didn't see a specific benefit and asked Commissioner if there was a specific need for the sandbags. He also said maybe place rocks, and he is open to re-evaluating that and considering depositing larger size rocks or different options. He also expressed that his initial thoughts were placing silt plates and sandbags but they didn't have access to it. She asked the rest of the commission what their thoughts were.

Commissioner Shadle had an addition to the discussion he was concerned exposed sediments and also the work taking place in a very high precipitation potential and flooding, he recommended that they put something in place to stabilize the sediment berm.

Commissioner Mack expressed his concern with the excavator moving all that sediment around, he wanted to know if the sediment moving downstream will be an issue. Mr. White wanted to clarify that there were two different concerns the commissioners had; one was the issue of the berm and the other the excavator being in the channel. There was a bit more discussion regarding other options that could be looked at. Mr. White also explained that he could look into using sandbags, however they are more labor intensive and time consuming. To get them filled as opposed to rocks which they could reuse. Commissioner Lakin expressed that she was uncomfortable with the sediments being open and not covered. The commission continued to brain storm different options one of which was suggested was a jersey barrier to redirect the water. Mr. White said that could be an option but they only own two of those therefore they would have to source more. Commissioner Wholey said that jersey barriers would leave sediments, however Mr. White informed the team that if they use jersey barriers then they would have to use something else since that couldn't work on its own.

Commissioner Shadle asked if there were any other questions. Commissioner Schneider wanted to know when he planned on closing the road. Mr. White said February 21. He also wanted to know if it was a track or wheel vehicle excavator, Mr. White informed him it was a track vehicle.

Commissioner Clapp made a motion to approve the application subject to a list of conditions
Commissioner Schneider seconded the motion.

I move that the Commission approve IWC Application # 23-1251 for the repair and reconstruction of the Belden Brook culvert-crossing on Stanley Road, subject to the following conditions:

(1) The Town shall obtain owner permission and temporary easements for work to be performed on private property. The Commission shall consider such permission and said easements to be owner consent for the filing of this application;

(2) The removal of trees is authorized where necessary for access to the brook. When the uprooting of a stump is unavoidable, the resulting exposed soil shall be stabilized with stone or with hay-mulch;

(3) The temporary diversion of water-flow with sandbags or with sediment berms or with stone is authorized in order to facilitate culvert repair and end-wall replacement. If time constraints and economic constraints allow it, the use of sandbags or other stable material would be the preferred approach. Sediment berms are an acceptable alternative if dictated by time considerations or by cost considerations, and the sediment is stabilized in order to preclude its redistribution downstream for anticipated storm flow for this season;

(4) Sediment build-up and diversion berms and woody diversion shall be removed from the brook at the conclusion of this project, and all such sediment shall be transported off-site to an appropriate upland disposal area;

(5) All disturbed and exposed soil shall be stabilized at the conclusion of this project, and seeding where feasible and appropriate shall take place in the spring;

(6) This approval shall include the Work Plan and the General Construction Sequence (and any subsequent refinements thereof) that are contained in the Town Engineer's February 6, 2023 Memorandum to the Mayor;

(7) If field conditions should dictate a significant change in the regulated activities authorized by this approval,

the Inland Wetlands Officer is empowered to approve such a change after consultation with the Chair of the Commission and with at least one member of the Commission;

(8) All conditions-of-approval shall be listed on the final revised plan, and all conditions-of-approval shall be incorporated as needed into the body of that plan. The final revised plan shall be reviewed and approved by the Inland Wetlands Officer or by the Chair of the Commission

Additions and changes that Commissioner Schneider made to the conditions were accepted by Mr. Clapp. All Commissioners present voted in favor of the motion.

III. Other Business:

a. Discussion items and updates at the discretion of the chair.

Chairman Lakin asked if they should discuss the details of the clerk and commissions meeting which was held via zoom meeting by the Town Clerk, it was decided that they will discuss at the following meeting.

b. Adjournment

Commissioner Tim Mack moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded and all Commissioners present were in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,

Camile Deans Commission Clerk