

**Minutes: The Inland Wetlands Commission, Town of Hamden, held a Regular Meeting via Zoom teleconferencing technology on Wednesday, March 1, 2023.**

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

Staff in attendance: Thomas Vocelli (IWC Enforcement Officer), Tim Lee (Assistant Town Attorney), Camile Deans (Commission Clerk).

Vice Chairman Shadle called the meeting to order at 7:00pm. Mr. Vocelli took attendance and Mr. Shadle noted the staff in attendance. Commissioners absent: Michael Milazzo, Joan Lakin, Lauren Wholey

**I. Public Comment Section**

Mr. Shadle called for public comments.

There were no public comments.

**II. Application:**

**a. 23-1250 Valley View Drive between #28 and #35**

**Dredging and restoration of a detention basin**

**Hamden Hollows Owners Association, Inc – Applicant**

Zach Georgina with Juliano Associates, Surveyors and Project Engineers, represented the applicant. Mr. Georgina gave a brief history and summary of the project. He shared his screen to display the site plan and gave a surface review since he gave a detailed explanation about the site and the proposed project in his previous presentation. Mr. Georgina explained that the project is completely a maintenance project on the detention pond that hasn't been done in 30 plus years. They are looking to install a construction entrance to the north of the pond, using the existing gate entrance to enter into the pond to implement dredging operations. They will be doing this during the Connecticut dry season in the summer. They will be requiring a two horse power pump in order to pump the water out. Mr. Georgina opened up to the commission for questions.

Mr. Shadle opened the floor for questions.

Commissioner Stone asked Mr. Georgina how long will the project be. Mr. Georgina informed him that it depends on the materials that will be removed. This can take anywhere from a couple of hours to a couple of days depending on the pile. However, the goal is to have the project done in a two to three week time period. He also stressed that in Connecticut's dry period they can go 2 to 3 weeks without storm water interruption. Commissioner Stone asked if the weather plays a factor; Mr. Georgina said yes.

Commissioner Shadle asked who is responsible for making the time call in regards to the start of the project. Mr. Georgina said they leave it to the contractor to make the call, but if there is an issue he would weigh in on that. However, it's typically the contractor. Commissioner Shadle asked about the temporary settling basin to the south --- what the capacity of that is and how much buffer do you need. Mr. Georgina informed him that 200 gallons can be handled inside of the basin at any one time, and it's also sized based on the pump and not on the storm event. Commissioner Shadle asked if it could then essentially make a mess into the basin that they are trying to fix, Mr. Georgina said that is correct, and he explained how the pump would work in that event.

Commissioner Mack asked about the spillway --- are there hay bales and other measures to protect downstream areas from sediment. Mr. Georgina said there is no way to implement that, and he explained that the basin is concrete and there is nowhere to store them. Commissioner Mack re-phrased and clarified his question, and Mr. Georgina explained the process on the site plan that he displayed.

Commissioner Schneider asked if they could see the existing spillway on the north east corner. He then asked if there is any real need to sandbag that portion off. Mr. Georgina said not particularly, and it's not practical either because there's nowhere in the spillway to anchor anything down. He also explained further how that works. Commissioner Schneider also asked what was the plan to clean up the work in the detention basin. Mr. Georgina said once the dewatering operation has been completed, the final area would be re-seeded and returned to lawn as it currently is.

Commissioner Shadle asked if there were any other questions and, if not, he would entertain a motion.

Commissioner Mack motioned to approve the application with conditions.....

*I move that we approve IWC Application # 23-1250 for the dredging and restoration of the Hollows detention basin on Valley View Drive, subject to the following conditions:*

*(1) In view of the proximity of this project to a regulated watercourse, sediment & erosion controls shall be subject to inspection and approval by the Inland Wetlands Officer;*

*(2) The project shall be scheduled for the dry season, and it shall be undertaken during a two-week period with a forecast of minimal rain;*

*(3) A supply of silt-fencing and hay bales shall be stored on-site for emergency S&E control purposes;*

- (4) The applicant shall address any wetland-related Engineering Department comments to the satisfaction of the Town Engineer in consultation with the Inland Wetlands Officer;*
- (5) The Regional Water Authority Senior Environmental Analyst shall be notified at least three business days prior to the onset of this project;*
- (6) The applicant shall codify the inspection schedule and the maintenance plan for the restored detention basin on the land records of the Town of Hamden;*
- (7) The applicant shall submit an annual inspection & maintenance report concerning the detention basin to the RWA Senior Environmental Analyst;*
- (8) All conditions-of-approval shall be listed on final revised plans and all conditions-of-approval shall be incorporated as needed into the body of those plans. The final revised plans shall be subject to review and approval by the Inland Wetlands Officer or by the Chair of the Commission.*

Commissioner Schneider seconded the motion. There were two discussion items raised by Commissioner Schneider. He asked if there was any comment from the engineering department per Condition (4). Mr. Vocelli informed him that he reached out to Stephen White, but he hadn't yet received a comment memo. He suspects that Mr. White will provide a memo, or if he has no comments he will confirm that. The question was raised if it is appropriate for them to approve a condition where there is an open-ended action from the engineering department. Mr. Vocelli stated that ordinarily he would hesitate to do that. However, it's been his experience that Mr. White has a trained eye that might pick up items that were missed. Mr. White is also very reasonable in his evaluations. Mr. Vocelli said that it's up to the commission, but he would be inclined to leave the condition as is in this particular case. He would then get a note from Mr. White, one way or the other.

After a discussion and a clarification from Attorney Town Attorney Tim Lee, the commission retained and modified the condition to add "in consultation with the Inland Wetlands Officer."

Commissioner Schneider also had a discussion point for Condition (8) --- "should" was replaced with "shall".

The changes were accepted by Commissioner Mack and Commissioner Schneider, who made and seconded the motion.

All commissioners present were in favor of the final revised motion.

### **III. Other Business:**

#### **a. Review of February 1, 2023 Meeting Minutes**

Commissioner Schneider motioned to approve the minutes; Commissioner Clapp seconded the motion. All commissioners present were in favor of the motion.

#### **b. Review of February 16, 2023 Special Meeting Minutes**

Commissioner Schneider had two comments on the minutes.

1. An addition to Paragraph 2 that should read: Mr. Vocelli stated the he authorized the preliminary work on the site.
2. An addition to the final paragraph in Item II that should include ‘Commissioner Clapp’ in the condition changes.

All commissioners present were in favor of the motion to approve the amended minutes.

#### **c. Storm-water catch-basins**

There was nothing new to report on the Green Fund grant application.

#### **d. Review site inspection schedule**

There are none scheduled.

#### **e. Boards and Commissions Fair**

*Boards and Commissions Fair - Saturday, March 11, 2023 | 11 AM – 1PM*

*Miller Library – Thornton Hall*

*Goal: Inform Hamden residents about the various boards and commissions’ mission, upcoming events, meetings, eligibility requirements, how to apply and more.*

Mr. Vocelli gave some additional information regarding the fair, and he suggested that anyone who is interested in attending should give their name to Camile. Mr. Schneider volunteered.

#### **f. Belden Brook culvert-crossing at Stanley Road**

Mr. Vocelli reported that the culvert-crossing section of the road is now closed. Construction is ready to start as early as 3/3/23. The Engineering Department and Public Works will not be using sediment berms for the water diversion; instead they will be using jersey barriers, and the gaps will be plugged with sand bags.

**g. Review of the February 9<sup>th</sup>, 2023 Chairs & Clerks Meeting regarding the Charter**

Camile Deans, Clerk, gave a review of the provisions of the new charter concerning the new term limits, voting districts, the roles of the Chair and the Clerk, and Public Comment protocols.

The commission members had a few questions and queries about some of the charter provisions.

Assistant Town Attorney Tim Lee gave an update on two of the items needing clarification --- sessions without a quorum and scheduling a meeting for each month.

**Adjournment**

Commissioner Clapp moved to adjourn and the motion was seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

*The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.*

Respectfully Submitted,

Camile Deans Commission Clerk