

Minutes of the Regular and Organizational Meeting of the Inland Wetlands Agency on January 06, 2010.

A. Roll Call

Present: Jim Connors, Ken Cowden, John Higgins, Eric Karlsen, Joel Levitz, Lynne McNamee, Steve Munson and Phil Fulco.

Streit called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

B. Pledge

All stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

C. Organizational Meeting

Streit called for nominations for Chairman: A motion was made by Levitz, seconded by Connors to nominate Fulco Chairman. There being no further nominations, they were closed. Streit cast one vote deeming Fulco Chairman.

Fulco called for nominations for Vice Chairman: A motion was made by Levitz, seconded by Connors to nominate McNamee Vice Chairman. There being no further nominations, they were closed. Streit cast one vote deeming McNamee Vice Chairman.

Fulco called for nominations for Parliamentarian: A motion was made by McNamee, seconded by Connors to nominate Levitz Parliamentarian. There being no further nominations, they were closed. Streit cast one vote deeming Levitz Parliamentarian.

A motion was made by Connors, seconded by McNamee that the Compliance Officer acts as the Designated Agent for the Agency. The motion carried unanimously. MaryRose's resume is on file in the Agency office.

Fulco welcomed new member Eric Karlsen, welcomed back existing members and stated that there is still one vacancy on the Board.

Fulco asked that the following be reviewed:

- The Regulations.
- Page 22 of the Regulations outlines Public Hearings.
- Page 22-24 reviews provisions/criteria on how decisions are based.
- Specifically that the new member please review the Ethics Commission Guide as well as the Freedom of Information Act.
- Try to keep discussions at meetings on track and relevant to IWA issues. All discussions are directed through the Chairman.
- There is to be no exparte communication and refer all press to the IWA office.
- The Commissioner's book and DVD Training is available in the IWA office. DEP Training sessions come up throughout the year.

- Please update resumes. These are reviewed for areas of expertise and if areas of expertise are applicable to the discussion/application than this input can be considered in making decisions.

D. Public Comments

None.

E. Old Business

- 1. Application IW-A09-048: North Street, City of Milford** – Construction of a 60' long pedestrian bridge, 10' bituminous trail and landscape enhancements within 150' of wetlands and watercourses in the Wepawaug River Watershed.

MaryRose reported that this is a proposal for a pedestrian bridge across the Wepawaug River in Eisenhower Park with trail and landscape enhancements within the 150' upland review area. Gary Sorge of Stantec was present to review the application.

MaryRose further reported that the site preparation for the bridge will require the disturbance of 0.1 acre of inland wetlands associated with the Wepawaug River. A portion of this area will be stabilized with rip rap and the remainder will be planted with native species. Additionally the multi-use trail leading to the bridge will be formalized and stabilized and invasive species will be removed and replaced with native species.

Gary Sorge reviewed that this plan is for a pedestrian bridge connecting the East and West sides of Eisenhower Park. This is a project that is grant funded. He orientated the proposed Bridge location on Drawing 2. The pond and watercourse is a diversion of the Wepawaug River. The bridge will be 60' long and cross the watercourse approximately 40-50' downstream of the existing dam. Drawing 3 shows the gray areas that will have landscape improvements around the pond which will include removal of the fence, restoring the shoreline, removing the invasive species and planting native species to enhance the area. The project would also include the preparation of the trail to the bridge. The bridge is 12' and can provide access for a truck or fire truck. Sheet 4 shows that the bridge is placed to have the minimal work adjacent to the wetland. Banks will be planted with small trees and shrubs. The trail will go to the existing pavilion. Planting Plan Drawing 5 reflect the plan to overplant to outcompete the invasive species. The plants will be densely planted to withstand the flows of the watercourse. Drawing 6 shows the details of the bridge, wood deck, weather steel, wingwalls which will be very subtle – a darker concrete. It will be a prefabricated bridge that will be lifted and placed with no construction on site. There will only be footings placed in the wetland with no net increase in fill in the wetland.

Fulco stated that he doesn't have any problems with the engineering of the project but feels that since there is filling there should be a public hearing.

Levitz asked if they will need to de-ice this bridge. Sorge stated that he was unsure what DPW would use but he would recommend that it be environmentally friendly in a wetland in a park.

Gary Sorge talked about the two bridges shown on the handout received this evening. The bridges are narrower but show the style and type of materials.

Chairman Fulco questioned the collapsible bollards shown on the plans

Sorge stated that there are 2 collapsible bollards on each side of the bridge. They will preempt an ATV or vehicle from using the bridge but allow walkers, bikes and horses. The Bollards will lift and drop and the vehicle drives over them. They are frequently used on multiuse trails

Munson asked if a formal site walk was needed. Several Commissioners stated that they are familiar with the area.

Fulco stated that if anyone would like, Compliance Officer Palumbo would walk the site with them. Just call the office.

The following motion was made by Connors, seconded by Higgins that a public hearing regarding application IW-A-09-048: North Street; would be in the public interest. I move that a public hearing be scheduled for **2/3/10**.

The motion carried unanimously.

F. Minutes

A motion was made by Connors, seconded by Higgins to accept the minutes of 12/16/09 as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

G. Subcommittee Reports

McNamee scheduled a Regulations Subcommittee meeting for 2/3/10 at 6pm and asked for new members. Karlsen volunteered.

H. Staff Report

- Welcome to our new members, the meeting schedule, Commissioner Handbook and MIWA Regulations were in your mail this evening. If you have any questions or

concerns, please call the office. It is important to remember that as long as you are impartial and follow the Regulations and Statutes your decisions may be questioned but they will stand. If you find that friends, neighbors or acquaintances try to talk to you about items under our review please explain that that is ex parte communications and that you will have to disqualify yourself. It is better for them to write a letter to the file or come and speak if there is a public hearing so that the whole agency can hear what they have to say.

- McNamee asked about the conference room status. MaryRose reported that the conference room is being located to the old Employment & Training office and is not completed as of yet.

I. Chairman's Report

The next meeting is on 1/20/2010 in Conference Room A and if anyone would like to see the bridge site, please contact MaryRose.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Streit

These minutes have not been accepted or approved.