

**A. Roll Call**

Present: Brendan Magnan, Daniel Bedecker, Ranjit Bhawe, Jim Connors, Steve Munson and Julie Valvo.

Absent: Matthew Connors and Heather Donaldson-Gladue.

Also Present: MaryRose Palumbo and Lisa Streit.

Magnan called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. and deemed there was a quorum.

Magnan reviewed: As we continue to host remote meetings, he wanted to take the opportunity to highlight a few guidelines to ensure business runs efficiently and that all statutory and administrative rules are followed:

1. In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act and Governor Lamont's executive orders, this meeting is being recorded and will be made available on the City of Milford website.
2. During this meeting, if members of the Inland Wetlands Commission would like to speak, please utilize the "raise your hand" feature via Zoom. All participants will be muted during the meeting unless recognized by the Chair.
3. After being recognized to speak, please state your name and address prior to making a statement.

**B. Pledge**

All stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

**C. Public Comments**

None.

**D. New Business**

1. **IW-23-0074: 57 New Haven Avenue, Founder's Walk, City of Milford** – Proposed relocation and removal of parts of Shipyard Lane, including reconfiguration of existing parking areas and storm drainage improvements with work within 150' of the Wepawaug River.

MaryRose reported that this is a proposal by the City of Milford for the relocation and removal of parts of Shipyard Lane, the reconfiguration of existing parking areas and storm drainage system improvements as phases of the Founders Walk project. The proposed work includes moving portions of Shipyard Lane east and creating a pedestrian walkway along the Wepawaug River; the replacement of a 15" Outfall with a 30" Outfall and replacement of a 24" Corrugated Metal Pipe (CMP) with a 24" Reinforced Concrete Pipe (RCP), riprap splash pads and water quality improvements. The outfall repairs and replacements are being done under CT DEEP permitting. The Agency is reviewing the work proposed within 150' of the Wepawaug River to ensure protection of the natural resources including sedimentation and erosion controls. The City Engineer's review is in the meeting documents.

Representatives from the City's Consultants, Silver Petrucelli Associates were in attendance to present the application. Don Smith, Bob Banning, Stephen Wing

This item is on the Agenda for the first time, this evening the Agency can:

- Ask questions.
- Take no action.
- Request additional information
- Schedule a site walk
- Schedule a public hearing (no petition has been received as of 12/20/23. Petition deadline is 1/03//24)

Bob Banning, Silver Petruccelli principal and engineer introduced Don Smith Don Smith Jr, PE 56 Greenwood Circle, Seymour, CT presenting the proposal for the City.

Smith shared his screen and reviewed the plans. This is a 24.8 acre site that includes Wilcox Park, Fowler Field, the tennis courts and parking. 4.5 acres are proposed to be altered. He proceeded to review Drawing D-100, showed the 150' upland review area. The Coastal Jurisdiction Line (CJL) and the tidal wetlands line are almost coincident but do wiggle back and forth along the site. They will be working on the parking lots, but not the ballfields; Shipyard Lane will be moved to the center of the property.

Smith orientated the commissioners to the site with the boat launch to the right of the drawing. He reviewed the direct wetland impacts which are the five (5) stormwater outfalls along the Wepawaug River. Smith noted that they will be installing check valves on each of the outlets. He described the work at each outlet:

Outfall #1 existing 24" Corrugated Metal Pipe will be replaced with a Reinforced Concrete Pipe due to degradation and silt.

Outfall #2 is a small 10" pipe that comes from a catch basin in the roadway. It was unpermitted and will be removed, impacting about ½ sq/ft.

Outfall #3 is an 18" pipe that is existing and in good condition. They will be adding an 18" backwater check valve.

Outfall #4 is an existing 15" pipe which goes up though the ballfields, up the hill to Harborside Drive. This pipe picks up all the drainage on Harborside Drive. They are proposing to replace it with a 30" RCP from the new roadway to the proposed outfall. From the roadway to the ballfields, it will be upgraded to a 24" RCP. There is no work proposed on the ballfields.

Outlet #5 is an existing 24" RCP that has about 2 cubic yards of accumulated sediment. The City Engineer has requested removal of this sediment which will be permitted through DEEP Structures Dredging and Fill permit.

Smith noted that they also provided the Soil Science and Environmental Services report. The report details the three types of vegetation found on the site: spartina along the water's edge, upland vegetation on the bank and phragmites.

Phase 2a will include the proposed roadway and the south and east parking lots which will be constructed first with the 24" outfall. Once completed and traffic shifted, they will build phase 2b including the walkway. They were asked by the library for a drive through book drop. That changes

the traffic direction and enlarges the road for the Fire Department access. Phase 2a will be the relocation of the roadway to the east and the east and south and parking lots. Phase 2b will be the riverwalk and outfalls work under DEEP permits.

The Erosion Controls plan is fairly comprehensive primarily for phase 2b. A line of silt fence will be installed along the aluminum fencing, which is the limit of activity. The aluminum fencing will remain in place except by outfall 1 where they are moving it inland slightly. The City Engineer has requested haybales line the silt fencing for extra protection. Existing catch basins will have silt sacks or haybales and all new catch basins will be protected. Smith described and showed the location of the dewatering basins. They will be used for dewatering and storage of unsuitable soil before transportation off site. He noted that the underlying materials within 2' of the surface are primarily clay. He said that the area is pretty flat, but they do not anticipate much infiltration due to the clay soils.

He reviewed the new proposed catch basins, manholes and stormwater piping as well as the erosion and sedimentation control notes and best practices. The DEEP Natural Diversity Database showed that the Northern Diamond Back Terrapin may be in the area. They have a turtle protocol plan per DEEP.

Smith reviewed the proposed roadway profile, generally following the existing profile but the low areas that will be leveled. The ten-year water surface elevation of the Wepawaug will be 7.3 and they have elevated the roadway above that projection.

He reviewed the details for stormwater outfall #1 - permanent impacts of 122 sq. ft. in the coastal jurisdiction line (CJL) area. Showed areas that wetland line is landward of the CJL. Stabilization under the COP will be a planted slope then a rip rap apron and will be installed under the SDF permit.

Outfall #4 will be replacing a 15" with a 30" and additional rip rap to be added to the footbridge. Showed the CJL and tidal wetland line. In this area there is submerged aquatic vegetation.

All of the catch basins are to be installed with ultra-urban filters and smart packs for water quality measures and improvements. Smith showed the details for these filters and stated that he will be reviewing with the City Engineer if snouts are necessary as well. DEEP was looking for the ultra-urban filters because other low impact design elements like rain gardens or infiltration will not work in this area due to the soils and water table.

Mr. Smith reviewed the remaining plans in the set: The existing site has 243 spaces with 8 accessible that don't conform to current code, 2 EV. Proposed is for 229 regular and 14 conforming accessible and 4 EV for a total of 246 spaces. Lighting drawings were briefly reviewed; there will be more lighting closer to the path and more in the parking area.

Steve Wing, Landscape Architect reviewed the planting plan. He said that it is a modest planting plan, He reviewed the wetland vegetation impact summary and the planting plan. He said that it is a bit lighter than the master plan originally called for. One of their charges was to not interfere with traffic or Oyster Fest. They researched how the plants will work on the site without impacting the programming of the area. There will be Red Maple and Japanese black pines for shade along the riverwalk. Adjacent to the outfalls they will install Hightide Bush which is about the only plant that

can tolerate this area and there will be spartina installed further down the slope. He has proposed planting beds near the footbridge and adding some seating along the riverwalk.

Steve Munson said that Jennifer Beno of Soil Science and Environmental Services report noted Tree of Heaven on the property. He asked that the invasives be removed. Steve Wing said that they will be watching and removing invasives during the planting portion of the project.

Discussion of any additional information that may be needed. Commission generally felt that the plan was comprehensive.

No action taken.

## **F. Minutes**

A motion was made by Connors, seconded by Bedecker to approve the minutes of 11/15/2023 as presented. The motion carried with Valvo abstaining.

## **G. Staff Report**

### **Commissioners Terms Expiring:**

Reminder that if your term is expiring 12/31/23, please respond to the Mayor's office inquiry if you would like to be reappointed.

### **Community Rating System (CRS) FEMA Reporting**

MaryRose will be working on the City's annual CRS reporting for the 2/01/24 deadline. This is an annual report sent to FEMA to remain in the Community Rating System (CRS). The objective of CRS is to recognize communities that are doing more than meeting the minimum National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) requirements to help their citizens prevent or reduce flood losses. The CRS also provides an incentive for communities to initiate new flood risk reduction activities.

### **FOI Training**

The City hosted a Freedom of Information Act workshop on 11/08/23. There is a link to the FOI Commission website in the draft meeting notes if you would like to review the Act or have specific questions: [The FOI Act](#)

### **MIWA reference page**

MIWA Clerk Taft Clark has created a reference page for you all to access. The link is [HERE](#). The page contains:

- MIWA meeting dates (first and third Wednesday at 7:30 pm)
- MIWA Regulations
- MIWA Bylaws
- Milford Ethics Commission Guide
- Past memos from the City Attorney's office on Inland Wetland legal questions and cases
- Training opportunities with CT DEEP and UConn for land use commissioners.
- MIWA webpage
- Milford YouTube page (MIWA meeting videos are available here)
- MIWA meeting Zoom link

The office has been working on a number of inquiries, complaints, minor reviews, and other reports.

Site Status:

Project Site	Status	Monitoring Reports	
		Last Received	Final Due By
1553 Boston Post Road	Asbuilt received		
30 Bridgeport Ave	Waiting on asbuilt		
0 Cherry St/Jefferson Park	On hold		
67-69 Cooper Ave	Ongoing		
94 Edgewater Place	Asbuilt received		
201 Kings Highway	Ongoing		
104 Lavery Lane	Ongoing		
32 Alexander Drive	Bond released		
114,122,124,128 Merwin Ave	Ongoing	8/29/23	
40 Morehouse Rd	Ongoing, adding 2 <sup>nd</sup> story – no change to footprint		
690 New Haven Ave	Construction bond released; mitigation bond remains through 6/26 monitoring report.	6/23	6/26
8 Pepe's Farm Road	Ongoing monitoring, final fall monitoring postponed until June 2024 by property owner.	June 2023	June 2024
51 Roses Mill Road	Bond released.		
0 Quarry Road	Ongoing, lot 1 & 2 completed, lot 3 under construction		
0 Terrace Road	Waiting on final review.	Spring 2022	Complete
161 W Rutland Rd	Ongoing-several lots have been sold off and individual owners are coming in with minor modifications to the proposed sites. In all cases no work has been proposed in the conservation wetland areas. Issue with stormwater association to be worked out with developer/lot owners before bond release.	Waiting on reports	
Wheeler's Farms Rd	Waiting on final review		
523 Wheeler's Farms Rd	Ongoing.		
260 Old Gate Lane	Ongoing		

Please remember to call or email if you are unable to attend a meeting.

## H. Chair Report

The next meeting will be a Regular Meeting on January 03, 2024 via Zoom.

Please let the office know if you cannot attend and get any questions you have on the applications to MaryRose so that she can forward them to the applicants.

There being no further business to discuss, a motion was made by Connors and seconded by Valvo to adjourn at 8:30 p.m. The motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Streit

These minutes have not been accepted or approved.