

Bolton Inland Wetlands Commission
Regular Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, August 23, 2022 7:00 p.m.
Virtual Meeting utilizing Zoom

Members Present: Chairman Ross Lally and Vice Chairman James Loersch and Alternate David Lynn (seated as a voting member)

Staff Present: Inland Wetlands Agent Barbara Kelly and Incoming Inland Wetlands Agent Cameron Covill

Others Present: Richard Barger

Chairman R. Lally called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

1. Approval of Agenda

D. Lynn made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. **J. Loersch seconded.** The motion passed unanimously 3:0:0.

2. Public Comment: None

3. Old Business: None

4. New Business:

A. Jurisdictional Ruling (#WRER-22-4) – 87 Brandy Street – Restoration of 2 Existing Farm Ponds

Mr. Barger introduced the project. Approximately two to three years ago, he purchased this property formerly known as the Brondolo Farm. There are three parties, including Mr. Barger, that are involved with the property. The purchase was approved by the Connecticut Farm Land Trust. A final report was sent to the NRCS-Natural Resources Conservation Service with approval expected by the end of September. A conservation easement has been put in place stating that the property can only be used for agricultural use in perpetuity. The property has been farmed for 50-60 years with hay being cut for many years.

There are two farm ponds on the property that have been there for many years. The ponds have never been restored. The northern pond is filled in with silt and had many phragmites, ninety percent of which have been killed. The ponds need restoration.

B. Kelly shared the project details online-the baseline report, the easement document, pictures looking across the northernmost farm pond, the trees at the edge ringing the south and east side of the pond, aerial views of the ponds, soil mapping and the plan that shows the size of the two ponds.

The northern pond will be excavated by removing two feet of silt that has accumulated over fifty years. Approximately 300-350 cubic yards of silt in total will be removed from both ponds. The dried material will be spread in the upland farm fields to protect the wetland areas.

R. Lally summarized the discussion by confirming that the property will only be used for farmland. The ponds will be used for irrigation if necessary. The property will remain as fields with no roads. There is a channel in the tree line toward the brook. The water flow will remain the same through the wetlands area with no change to the groundwater level. R. Lally read Section 4.1a of the Inland Wetlands Regulations and it was determined that no permit is necessary as it is maintenance of an existing farm pond.

J. Loersch asked how the material will be moved from the pond to the upland area. The silt will be removed by Alan Laliberte who will use an excavator with a 35 foot reach and a one cubic yard bucket. Mr. Barger said that due to monetary concerns, he will be using his own tractor to spread the silt. B. Kelly confirmed that the silt will be moved to the western end of the property, north of the tree line.

J. Loersch made a motion to find this a permissible activity under section 4.1a of the Inland Wetlands Regulations as a non-regulated use. **D. Lynn seconded.** The motion passed unanimously 3:0:0.

B. Kelly will send out a letter on Thursday to that effect.

Mr. Barger thanked B. Kelly for all of her help.

J. Loersch made a motion to discuss 65 Shoddy Mill Road at this point in the meeting. **D. Lynn seconded.** The motion passed unanimously 3:0:0.

B. IWC Agent Designation

Cameron Covill is preparing to take over as Inland Wetlands Commissioner in Bolton. He spoke about his previous positions with the Belchertown Massachusetts combined Conservation Commission and Inland Wetlands Commission, his work in Nantucket with the town land bank, working at the Connecticut Wildlife Division with the hunter safety program and at Northwest Park as an environmental educator. He is looking forward to providing his expertise in Bolton. B. Kelly will be working with him for a solid transition. R. Lally expects the transition to be complete by the end of the year.

D. Lynn made a motion to appoint Cameron Covill as Inland Wetlands Agent on behalf the Inland Wetlands Commission. **J. Loersch seconded.** The motion passed unanimously 3:0:0.

5. Approval of Minutes:

A. July 26, 2022 Regular Meeting

J. Loersch made a motion to accept the minutes as written. **D. Lynn seconded.** The motion passed unanimously 3:0:0.

6. Wetlands Agent Report

B. Kelly reported on 65 Shoddy Mill Road. The town attorney has been doing follow up to encourage the cleanup progress. Mr. Barger said there are two court judgments-and illegal driveway cut and storage of 30 vehicles with the filling of a half acre of wetlands. Mr. Snarski, a soil scientist, has been hired to speak to B. Kelly and/or Jim Rupert to help move things along. B. Kelly has not heard from Mr. Snarski yet. Mr. Barger noted that the Board of Selectmen was pressuring him to see what was happening with the property. Mr. Barger will work with the attorneys to make sure the agreed upon plan is completed.

B. Kelly, Jim Rupert and Mr. Barger met on the property with the Gremegna property trustee. There is a \$100.00 per day fine for non-compliance. There is surety on the land records. \$65,000 in legal fees and back taxes have been collected. The focus of this commission is on the impact to the wetlands from leakage of vehicles.

B. Kelly, R, Lally and C. Covill will be at UCON this week for a wetlands and forestry class.

The town started a codification project a year ago. The town will take ordinances and regulations and roll them into one code for the town. This finished documentation will be printed and will also be available online. R. Lally said that if anything needs to be corrected in the regulations, it should be done before the project is complete. Ticketing and fines were considered but administrative duties are an issue. The town felt that it wouldn't be worth the time and trouble although the issue is open for further discussion.

7. **Other:** None

8. **Adjournment**

J. Loersch made a motion to adjourn at 7:51 p.m. **D. Lynn seconded.** The motion passed unanimously 3:0:0.

APPLICATION STATUS

IWC #	Sub. Date	Rec'd Date	Name or Address	Public Hearing Start	Min. Action Date	Max. Action Date
WRER-22-4	08-09-22	08-23-22	87 BRANDY ST.		09-27-22	10-27-22

** Legal extensions beyond this date have been included.

***Legal extensions beyond this date have **not** been included.

Respectfully submitted,

Leslie J. Brand

Leslie Brand
Recording Clerk

Please see minutes of subsequent meetings for corrections to these minutes and any corrections hereto.