

**BOLTON INLAND WETLANDS COMMISSION**  
**REGULAR MEETING**  
**7:00 P.M., TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2024**  
**VIRTUAL MEETING VIA ZOOM**

**Inland Wetlands Commission Members Present Via Zoom:** Chair Ross Lally, Vice Chair James Loersch, Member Michael McDonnell, Alternate Member Diane DeNunzio, Member David Lynn

**Staff Present Via Zoom:** Wetlands Agent Alyssa Barroso

**Staff Present Via Zoom:** Board Clerk Mary Johnston

**Others Present Via Zoom:** None

**1. Approval of Agenda**

R. Lally declared the meeting open at 7:06 p.m.

**2. Public Comment**

None

**3. Approval of Minutes**

D. DeNunzio MOVED to approve the October 22, 2024, Minutes. M. McDonnell SECONDED. A. Barroso stated there was a spelling correction under the Wetlands Agent Report. The word “Snarkey” should be spelled “Snarski”. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY WITH THE CORRECTION 5:0:0.

**4. Old Business**

None

**5. New Business**

None

**6. Wetlands Agent Report**

A. Barroso gave an update on ongoing projects.

**6a. 310 Hop River**

A. Barroso reported this permit was approved in June 2020 and was to demolish an existing structure and rebuilt it in a slightly different orientation. The project was never started, and the permit extension is valid for fourteen years. Discussion was held by the Commission on the fourteen-year extension that was granted a few years ago. A. Barroso will continue to monitor this permit. R. Lally pointed out the applicant will need to come back to the Commission if he deviates from the approved permit.

**6b. 1079 Boston Turnpike**

A. Barroso reported she did a final check on the sub driveway project and was happy to report that F. Davis did a fantastic job with the completion of the project.

R. Lally encouraged the Commission to drive by and look at the completed project.

#### **6c. 180 Bolton Center**

A. Barroso reported this project is a single-family residence and that work has been sporadic. A. Barroso spoke to the owner in person on the proposed progress for completion. A. Barroso stated the septic was being dug today and the driveway has been poured. A. Barroso stated she will make sure the soil is stabilized around the septic. A. Barroso was happy to see some progress on this project.

#### **6d. 1048 Brandy**

A. Barroso reported this application was in the installation of an inground pool which the Commission had delegated to the Wetlands Agent. A. Barroso reported there were issues with the silt fence and soil placement and the owner has fixed the problems pointed out by the Wetlands Agent.

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#### **6e.**

A. Barroso reported she noticed some brush in a wetlands area along with water from a drainage pipe from an unknown source. A. Barroso stated she spoke with the owner who was unaware of the wetlands area and fixed the issues.

#### **6f. 65 Shoddy Mill**

A. Barroso reported she visited the site today and shared two photos with the Commission on the progress of the wetland restoration. A. Barroso stated the owner has seeded the slope with winter rye and was pleased with the removal of fill in the wetlands. Discussion was held on the erosion of the winter rye grass during rains and the use of erosion control blankets. A. Barroso explained the seeding plan by the owner after the hard frost. A. Barroso was pleased with the progress of the restoration. R. Lally stated it will be two seasons of growing to see how well it does. A. Barroso stated the owner is monitoring for three seasons.

#### **6g. 271 Hop River Road**

R. Lally asked about the status of the connection to the rail trail. R. Lally stated the applicant would need to amend the application for the stream crossing. A. Barroso stated she talked with Planning and Zoning about this proposed connection and felt there was some confusion about how to proceed. After discussion, the Commission would like the applicant to amend the application to include the plans for connection to the rail trail that include stream crossing plans. A. Barroso will talk to the applicant to let them know about the process to proceed with a new plan. R. Lally pointed out that Planning and Zoning should be included.

#### **6h. 1 Notch Road**

R. Lally stated this project is for reactivating the gravel pit to do some filling and grading for a storage facility to store equipment. R. Lally stated the owner is not going to complete that work and the lot is for sale. R. Lally asked A. Barroso to make sure what the owner has done there is in a stable condition, so it does not cause issues while sitting there. M. McDonnell asked if the owner would have to finish work so there are no temporary controls in place. R. Lally replied the permit goes with the property and the owners should make sure it is stabilized. R. Lally stated there is a neighboring property owner who has issues with the runoff from this property. A. Barroso stated she will follow up with this permit.

## **7. Other**

### **7a. Review and Approval of the Proposed FY25-26 Budget**

R. Lally presented the proposed FY 25-26 Budget for consideration. After discussion, J. Loersch MOVED to approve the Proposed FY25-26 Budget as the current fiscal budget. D. DeNunzio SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 5:0:0.

### **7b. Update on the CACIWAC Conference**

R. Lally, M. McDonnell and A. Barroso attended the CACIWAC Conference recently. They reported the Conference was outstanding and that they were able to bring back lots of useful information for wetlands regulations and enforcement. R. Lally stated he will share a handout that describes the escalation sequence with the Commission. A. Barroso discussed the informative sessions she attended during the conference. M. McDonnell reported he purchased a manual from UConn Clear entitled "*What's Legally Required-A Guide to Legal Rules for Making Local Land Use Decisions in the State of Connecticut.*" M. McDonnell stated this is an exceptionally good manual and is quite easy to understand. M. McDonnell encouraged the Commission to purchase this reference manual. R. Lally stated he will purchase a copy for the Commission. R. Lally stated he learned at the conference to take advantage of the opportunity to assist residents with the removal of invasive species. A. Barroso stated she is working on a brochure that would give a general overview of wetlands which she will share with the Commission at the next meeting. R. Lally stated another informative book to purchase is "*Face of Connecticut,*" which is a history of development in Connecticut.

### **7c. Review Proposed Updates to Wetlands Regulations**

M. McDonnell reported the updates to the Wetlands Regulations is still a work in progress. M. McDonnell stated he needs to add the fees for permitting costs and to incorporate information he gathered from the CACIWAC Conference. M. McDonnell will have more information before Thanksgiving and will present it at the next meeting. The Commission discussed the reduction of support from DEEP.

A. Barroso stated she would like the Commission to discuss and consider the requirement of a marker for delineated markers of wetlands. A. Barroso would also like the Commission to discuss the idea of prohibited areas such as buffers that would effectively protect the wetlands. This would be on a case-by-case basis. R. Lally stated the Commission would

need to avoid the use of the term “buffer” and keep the conversation to ways to mitigate impacts of the development on the property such as leaving certain areas undisturbed. R. Lally felt it is doable but must keep in mind the use of the term “buffer” and keep the conversation focused on what is necessary to mitigate impacts to that site. Discussion was held on protecting wildlife during developments or construction. R. Lally suggested having this language in the regulations and talking with Planning and Zoning.

**8. Adjournment:** M. McDonnell MOVED to adjourn the meeting at 8:38 p.m. D. DeNunzio SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 5:0:0.

Respectfully submitted by Mary J. Johnston

*Mary J. Johnston*

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