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MINUTES REGULAR MEETING NORTH BRANFORD CONSERVATION & INLAND WETLANDS & WATERCOURSES AGENCY

Wednesday, April 26, 2017

6:30 p.m.

Town Hall- 909 Foxon Road

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** Chairman Scavo called the meeting to order at 6:36 P.M.
2. **ROLL CALL:** Chairman Steven Scavo, Member Ashley Joiner, Member Frank Brigano, Member Lisa DePonte

Absent: Member Gerry Fischbach

3. MINUTES – Meeting of February 22, 2017

MOTION: Member Brigano moved, seconded by Member Joiner to approve the minutes of February 22, 2017.

With all in favor, the minutes were approved.

4. NEW BUSINESS

- A. **Application #2007/08-4,** Request for a five (5) year extension to the existing wetlands permit for “Schanz Farm Subdivision” known as Bridgewater Estates for development of residential single family house lots on the westerly portion of 1775 **Middletown Avenue**, Assessor Map 72 Lot 12, R-40 Zone. *Owner/Applicant: Sunwood Development Corp c/o Bob Wiedenmann*

Town Planner Duques received a request to consider the request for the five-year extension. A discussion around the placement of boulders to protect any debris from contaminating the wetlands in the area ensued.

Member Joiner recalls the original agreement and that the boulders were to be placed at the beginning of the project and not at the end or as the houses are built. These boulders are to protect the wetlands, so they should be in place.

Ms. Duques indicated that the boulders were being placed as the houses are being constructed. They are being done as they are being constructed. She will check on this situation.

Member Joiner recommended that the boulders be moved immediately as to help protect the wetlands. This needs to be done as quickly as possible to make sure that nothing ends up in the wetlands. It has already been five years, and now there will be an additional five years. This should be plenty of time.

Ms. Duques asked Fran Merola and Kurt Weiss about Sunwood and the work that they do. Fran and Kurt had favorable things to say.

Town Planner Duques read an update on the progress on Bridgewater / Schanz. Six homes have been built to date and boulders are being installed during the homebuilding process.

Member Brigano requested that badges be placed to identify that it is North Branford Inland Wetlands territory and consideration be taken for the wetlands in the areas.

Ms. Duques indicated that she would try to find the badges that were made.

Member Brigano indicated that they are building houses between Route 17 and the river, on the highway side. This is included in the wetlands permit. Boulders will be included there, as well. There are 4 homes on this side of the bridge.

Member DuPont, seconded by Member Brigano, moved to approve a request for a five (5) year extension for IWWA Application #2007/08-4, "Schanz Farm Subdivision", R-40 zone. Applicant: Sunwood Development Corp c/o Bob Wiedenmann with the same conditions as issued on June 4, 2008 and September 28, 2011 then on May 8, 2013, August 14, 2013, and April 29, 2014 for revisions. The extended permit would expire on April 26, 2022.

Members DuPont, Brigano, and Scavo voted in favor. Member Joiner recused herself.

5. WETLAND ENFORCEMENT OFFICER'S REPORT

Town Planner Duques responded to an email from Member Brigano regarding a parcel of land where they may be some violations. She will follow up on this.

The second consideration was on Forest Road, which seemed like farming activities. It would appear that this has resolved itself.

Next, the main pipe from Lake Gaillard has a leak that flows through Tilcon's and RWA's properties and adjacent to Route 22 into a settling pond which ultimately connects with a stream. A resident who lives on Edwards Road has the stream in his backyard and is concerned because the stream looks cloudy compared to another stream that meets in his yard. Tilcon has concerns about the Regional Water Authority's leaking pipe which adds water to their existing flows and increases the water in the settling pond, not allowing the water to sit and settle for long enough.

The RWA is proposing to divert the leaking water from Tilcon's runoff by putting in a new head wall, piping the water under the existing watercourse and creating a swale 2' deep and 2' wide which will run the entire length to an existing splash/plunge pool and join with existing outfall.

In order to do this swale, there will need to be some clearing of brush, but it is mostly poison ivy, brush, and vines. Since there are no wetlands in the existing drainage area, but it connects with a stream and wetlands are located downstream, Ms. Duques asked if the IWWA would like them to file something for her review or for IWWA to review?

The consensus was that the application should be filed with Ms. Duques for her review and she will make sure that they are considering the drainage. RWA will be the one that maintains this.

The other item: Application for an addition at 17 Carlen Drive has been reviewed and approved. The home has a brook in the back, the addition will be on sonitubes. The brook embankment is about 6'; and there is a shed on the other side of the brook. If they wanted to replace this shed, would there need to be an application submitted? They would need to file an application.

FYI: There is a planting plan proposed at an existing home with a brook in the backyard. Nothing is being cut down, but they are adding to stabilize. They may have to remove some invasive plants. No trees or vines would be cut. The IWWA is fine with this and thinks that this would be an improvement, as long as no existing trees are cut.

6. OTHER BUSINESS

A. North Branford High School Environmental Science Fair May 19th, discuss IWWA having a table and what our topic of discussion will be

Member Joiner has a goat and chickens that would be available for this endeavor. A discussion about farming and the impact on wetlands, as well as invasives and their impact can be facilitated. Garlic Mustard can be brought in so that students can see first hand. Additionally, hands-on activities can be explored. There is a cookbook that has recipes that utilizes the invasives.

7. ADJOURNMENT

Member Brigano moved, seconded by Member DuPonte to adjourn at 7:15pm.

With all in favor, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted by,

Michele Pollock, Recording Secretary

Steven Scavo, Chairman