

# WINDHAM INLAND WETLANDS & WATERCOURSES COMMISSION

## Minutes for Thursday August 18, 2008, Willimantic Police Complex

### I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 P.M. Members present were Acting Chair James McGill, Joseph Marsalisi, and Joseph Wagner. Also present was Town Planner James Finger. Martin Brogie and Susan Johnson arrived later.

### II. New Business – DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION

#### 1. **John & Patricia Donahue 460 Boston Post Rd., North Windham, application for wetland permit for renewal of wetlands permit for continuation of existing gravel pit near Joshua Tract parcel**

Joe Boucher described the history of the gravel pit. It dates at least back to the 1960's. He presented a map. In 1997, John Ianni flagged the wetlands. He said that in 2002 we were issued a permit by this commission. The plan was designed to excavate a pond in what was at that time outside a regulated area. There are no pollution problems or erosion on the area bordering the bog. It is not a high volume operation. Eventually a parking lot will be developed for sidewalks and visits to the bog. There is no impact on the bog because the excavation takes place below the water table. Mr. Brogie asked if there is dust suppression. Mr. Boucher said the gravel is very clean, there is no dust problem. Chair Johnson asked how deep they will go. Mr. Boucher said 14'. He said the property may eventually be turned over to Joshua's Trust. There is virtually no dumping and very little atv activity. Planner Finger said the site was very clean when he has visited. There was a discussion of details of effects of activity on the bog, and how there might be enhancements to protect the bog. A closure plan has been submitted. Planner Finger said the gravel pit is overdue for renewal, and if we knew of problems this would be an opportunity to correct them. He said if the board has concerns and wants to go out and walk the property, now would be the time. Mr. Marsalisi asked that if the permit were renewed, does the permit carry to another owner if the land were sold. Planner Finger said that generally permits apply to the property and not the property owner. Chair Johnson asked about what will happen once they are 14' down, and will there be remaining gravel, and she asked why do we grant a permit for 5 years and not 1 year. Planner Finger said he would have to research that statute. Mr. Brogie thought it best to make an informal site walk and make a few recommendations. Such recommendations might include a different seeding mix. Chair Johnson said we will put the item on September's agenda.

#### 2. **Ken Denning & Willimantic (Edens & Avant) LIC - Responses to violation Notice 1565 & 1589 West Main St., Willimantic application for wetland permit for activities in upland of wetland and floodplain**

John Martucci, Licensed Civil Engineer with Dutton Associates, LLC spoke and introduced George Logan, Certified Soil Scientist, of Rema Environmental. He

represented both parties in the violation. He said in 2003, Ultraviolet at 1565 West Main made an application to remove pavement and construct a fence along the eastern property line. The applicants have received violation notice for debris pushed into the wetlands. There is an elevated catch basin. Planner Finger noted that the catch basin does not catch anything, water will never go in the catch basin grate. Mr. Martucci said debris is constricting the channel area behind the mattress company. Ultraviolet and the mattress company both say they have not pushed material in. Mr. Martucci said we propose to construct a channel to clear a path for water to come in. We will line the channel with an erosion control lining. The new channel will run through the debris. He presented a map and described the project. Mr. Logan spoke of his concern with the flooding issue and a safety problem. He said this wetland has become wetter and wetter. We will take it down 6" - 8". Mr. Logan described the dynamics of the flooded areas and saturated areas and he projected vegetation probabilities. They propose to take piles out and replace topsoil. (Mr. Logan noted that there is an inaccuracy on the plan. Two kinds of conservation seed mixes are transposed on the map.) Mr. Martucci and Mr. Logan described the drainage area dynamics and what they propose to accomplish. Planner Finger urged that someone would remove the debris that was pushed up along the property line on the west side of the drainage channel. Mr. Brogie said there is sand coming off BJ's parking lot and he asked for a plan to restore the area around the catch basin. Mr. Martucci said we can add stone to act as a rip rap. There was a discussion of the history and dynamics of the drainage of the wider area, and of the history of the wetlands delineation. Mr. Brogie asked if there would be a monitoring plan. Mr. Logan will work on that. Mr. Brogie asked how long the project will take. Mr. Martucci said less than a week. The Town will be notified pre-construction. Mr. Martucci will look at the inclusion of a fore bay. Mr. Martucci said that Mr. Dutton, the principal engineer, was not able to attend.

Motion: Mr. Brogie made a motion to approve this wetland application for wetland restoration at 1565 and 1589 West Main St. for the restoration of the wetlands and watercourse in this area that have been disturbed. Conditions:

- That the applicants devise some fore bay structure off the south west corner of BJ's parking lot to mitigate road and parking lot sand from entering the catch basin; that they submit a plan to the Town Engineer for such a fore bay; and that it could be maintained and cleaned out by whomever is responsible.
- The work should be done at as dry a time as possible and before winter.
- That the actual construction work be done with the oversight of an environmental consultant.
- That erosion and sedimentation be monitored by a qualified person until the area has healed, and that there be a two-year monitoring of invasive plants.

Mr. Wagner seconded the motion.

The vote was unanimous, in favor.

### **III. Old Business– DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION**

1. **Town of Windham Water Pollution Control Facility (WPCA) aka Sewer Facility - 2 Main St., Willimantic,** submission of supplemental information regarding approved wetlands permit.

WPCA submitted supplementary materials, and they were accepted by the commission.

III. **Routine Business – DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION**

1. **Approval of Minutes -**

2. **Miscellaneous -**

- Mr. Boucher of Town Engineering said he will talk on some work that looks like a wetlands regulated matter but it is not really in the commission's jurisdiction. He referred to property with a dam that is owned by a trust and will be transferred to Joshua's Tract. Joshua's Tract hired a consultant to assess the property. Mr. Boucher said the scope of work we propose is to fix the spillway and take stumps out and fill stump holes. This work is next to a pond but not in the commission's jurisdiction because it is a DEP site. He said that we have to send notices and I hoped to have the application together tonight but I should have it by Monday. The property will be used for passive recreation, probably an interpretative walking trail. The dynamics of the dam are not completely understood. Mr. Boucher spoke in order to bring this to the attention of the commission. Chair Johnson thanked Mr. Boucher.

- Planner Finger received information on beavers from the Humane Society.

3. **Correspondence -**

- Planner Finger received a letter of Transmittal from the Frog Bridge Development Company.

- Mr. Chabot of 369Valley St., Willimantic sent an application and a sketch for proposed activities regarding tree removal. The trees are large and close to a very populated building. Planner Finger will accept the sketch for the removal of the trees, but will require more material such as an erosion sedimentation plan if there is activity any closer to the brook. Mr. Chabot put a notice in the newspaper at his own expense. Planner Finger asked to see a detailed plan before the stumps are excavated.

- Letters were sent to Mr. and Mrs. Fleming and Mr. And Mrs. Perkins.

**V. Adjourn**

A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Brogie.

The vote to adjourn was unanimous, in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen Wright, Recording Clerk

September 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2008