

WINDHAM INLAND WETLANDS & WATERCOURSES COMMISSION

Minutes for Thursday, August 8, 2013

Call to Order – The meeting was called to order at 7:05 P.M. Members present were Susan Johnson, Chairman, Joseph Marsalisi, and Joseph Wagner. Also present - James Finger, Wetlands Agent and Joe Gardner, Town Engineer.

Approval of July 11, 2013 Minutes – Commissioner Marsalisi moved to approve the minutes of the July 11, 2013 meeting by and Commissioner Wagner seconded the motion; motion carried.

New Business–Discussion/Possible Action

- **East Coast Greenway Project** – Town Engineer, Joe Gardner appeared before the commission to report on the bike path. He distributed a map and environmental study to commissioner members. He explained that there have been many meetings with the State Dept. of Transportation and Army Corp of Engineers to be certain the project meets all requirements.

The project will begin south of the Willimantic Railroad Museum and continue east to the vicinity of Bridge Street in Willimantic and is expected to begin in the spring of 2014. The wetlands permit is a critical juncture to connect the Airline and Hop River trails.

Mr. Gardner explained that the proposed trail will follow the existing grades to avoid any additional fill in the flood plains. The project was described and discussed and the commission took receipt of the application for action next month.

- **C-TEC Solar 55 Jennings Lane, Windham Center** – wetland application for construction of two pole mounted structures for solar panels within wetland area. No one from C-TEC Solar was present so Mr. Finger explained the project to the commission.

Chairman Johnson questioned the stability of the solar panels in the high water table on the property, and asked if the commission should have the property owner come before the board to discuss the issue. Mr. Finger stated that collapse of the solar panels would not harm wetlands nor neighbors but, he will ask the applicant to come before the commission to discuss the matter.

The commission took receipt of the application for action next month.

Other Business – Chairman Johnson said that she and Mr. Finger attended the water forum for the Mansfield Water Supply Plan. Chairman Johnson stated one of the things that came out of the forum was the need for a regional water plan. Other parts of the state have such plans and it's time to create legislation that addresses the need for a regional water plan. With such a plan, future development won't present controversy; we'll know what we water we have and we'll know how to protect our water. Connecticut is the fourth densely populated state in the country, with a good water supply and we need to protect it.

Routine Business –*DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION*

1. Miscellaneous– Mr. Finger reported that Eastern CT State University has received funding to build it new Fine Arts Building. The project will create more impervious surface. Drainage at ECSU was discussed and Mr. Finger reported that DEEP has already determined that there will be no wetlands impact. This drainage will likely be going into the north of campus into the arboretum which drains towards the Route six expressway.
2. Correspondence – None

Adjournment – Moved by Commission Marsalis and seconded by Commissioner Wagner to adjourn the meeting at 7:55. Motion Carried.

Respectfully submitted by Janet Laukaitis for
James Finger, Inland Wetland Agent