

John Favreau, Chair
Cynthia Shook, Vice Chair
Nancy Binns, Member
Thomas Caldwell, Member
Tara Tanner, Member

TOWN OF WARREN
Inland Wetlands & Conservation Commission
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Regular Meeting Minutes
Thursday, January 18, 2024

1. Call to Order

John Favreau, Chair of the Inland Wetlands & Conservation (IWC) Commission, called the meeting to order at 6:31 pm. Members present were Cindy Shook, Nancy Binns, Tara Tanner, and Tom Caldwell. Janell Mullen was present as the Town of Warren's wetlands agent. The property owners of 13 Sunset Lake Road, Allan Buttrick & Susan Vera Moran were present as was Bill Colby, Professional Engineer, representing the property owners. Members of the public included Demetrio Meduri, Al Muscari, Beth-ann Muscari, and Mike McKenna.

2. Consideration of the Minutes

Nancy Binns moved to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of December 21, 2023 as written. Tom Caldwell seconded the motion. The motion to approve the minutes passed unanimously.

Chairman Favreau stated that he would need to abstain from voting on site walk minutes. Cindy Shook stated that she would have to as well since she also absent for the site walk of January 3rd. Nancy Binns moved to approve the site walk minutes of January 3, 2024. Tom Caldwell seconded the motion to approve. Tara Tanner voted in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

3. No new applications were received at the regular meeting of the IWC Commission.

4. Pending Applications

- A. IWA #23-11-03 – streambank stabilization at 266 Lake Road (Map 8, Lot 39) and adjacent property (Map 8, Lot 4). Sean Hayden, Director of the Lake Waramaug Task Force, entered the meeting at 6:07 PM and was asked to approach the Commission to present his application updates. Mr Hayden stated that due to erosion on streambanks such as this one, nutrients end up in Lake Waramaug. This project seeks to arrest the process of sedimentation and siltation ending up in the Lake. Sean Hayden referenced the site plan that had been prepared by Steve Trinkaus, PE and stated that a small excavator would be reshaping the steep bank and then installing Koir logs with live stakes.

Member Nancy Binn asked what "live" stakes are. Sean Hayden stated that they are living tree branches like willows.

Member Cindy Shook asked what material the Koir logs are made out of. Mr. Hayden stated that the specifications are on the plan and that they are comprised of organic matter such as jute, coconut fibers, etc and explained that they would be woven into the bank with vegetation to stabilize this area.

Cindy Shook asked if the applicant could provide photos that would illustrate this bio-engineering technique that employ Koir logs.

Chairman John Favreau asked about the elements of the plan that had been updated from the first iteration and noted that the sandbags had been added in lieu of a water boom to ensure that any materials that fall into the water during the construction wouldn't end up downstream.

Janell Mullen asked if a more specific notation could be made regarding the tree removal. Member Caldwell had asked about this at the site walk and it was noted that the trees to be removed would be stumped and not grubbed.

Chairman Favreau indicated that the application would need to be updated to incorporate all of these details that they had been discussing. He moved to approve the proposal on the condition that the application be updated to reflect:

- a. The erosion & sedimentation control measures to be employed during the project phase.
- b. Proper indication of stockpiling of materials removed from the bank and/or materials to be used during the project as well as an indication of where the materials may end up should they be used on site.
- c. Visible examples of Koirlogs stabilizing a streambank
- d. An express statement indicating that the trees to be removed are not to be stumped. Tom Caldwell seconded the motion to approve with the aforementioned conditions. The motion passed unanimously.

5. Other Business to Come before The Commission

- A. Modification- #IWA #23-03-03 – Bill Colby, PE, and Allan Buttrick, property owner of 13 Sunset Lake Road, approached the Commission. Bill Colby stated that a change had been made in the field so that the drain could properly daylight. He also mentioned that the pipe is low flow even after the recent heavy rain events. It is situated in a natural depression at the end of a swale.

Chairman John Favreau stated that he was not present at the January 3rd site walk and asked another member of the Commission to describe what they had seen. Tom Caldwell stated that the site around the pipe which extends into the wetlands is relatively stabilized with grass growing and there were no signs of erosion in this area. He also stated that there were well and septic constraints, and that this solution was likely the one to cause the least amount of disturbance.

Bill Colby added that the alternative would be to further elevate the house by bringing in a sizeable amount of fill. Janell Mullen, wetlands agent, asked the engineer to confirm that no other changes had occurred in the field germane to the wetland's purview since the approval of IWA#23-03-03. Bill Colby said that was correct.

Cindy Shook moved to approve the modification without requiring a new wetlands application. Tara Tanner seconded the motion to approve the modification which involves a 15 foot longer 4" in diameter PVC pipe that outlets into the wetlands as represented on the as-built plan. The motion to approve passed unanimously.

- B. Process and Procedures- Referrals to Lake Waramaug Task Force/Lake Waramaug Authority, etc
Chairman John Favreau stated that this item had been brought to the Commission by an oral request and then had been tabled until a written request was provided to the IWC. John Favreau read a letter dated January 16, 2024 from Sandy Papsin, Secretary of the Lake Waramaug Authority, in its entirety into the record.

This letter prompted the IWC to discuss establishing a standard operating procedure regarding referrals to all water oversight agencies in general.

The Commission wholly endorses the sharing of information and collaboration and applauds the lake entities in all of their endeavors yet cannot be tasked with making referrals. All activities, meetings, site walks, applications are made public. Every month an agenda is posted and publicly available. It is the responsibility and the authority of these organizations to monitor and opine on various lake activities. It is within their charge, and not the IWC's, to discern which applications fall into their varied lake interests and need to be reviewed for comment. In the event that the IWC has a particular concern, we will not hesitate to reach out.

6. Communication Received

No other communication aside from the letter from the Lake Waramaug Authority had been received.

7. Agent's Report

Janell Mullen, wetlands agent, reviewed her report. She noted that she continues to monitor the projects that are under construction on steep slopes and wetlands adjacent during rain events since there have been many this year. She also noted that the IWC awaits an update from the Lake Waramaug Task Force on the lake dredging project since the material has still not been removed from 358 Lake Road and no plan to remove it seems to be in place.

She also noted that she would email the Commissioners the link to the DEEP wetlands training and the link to the

upcoming training opportunity which is the annual Conference of Wetlands Scientists.

Cindy Shook moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:54 pm. Tara Tanner seconded the motion. The motion passed anonymously and the regular meeting of the IWC adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Janell Mullen
Town of Warren Wetlands Agent
January 19, 2024