



TOWN OF OLD SAYBROOK
**Inland Wetlands & Watercourses
Commission**

J. Colin Heffernan, Chairman
Chuck Savage
Vacancy
Peter DeLisa (Conservation)
Mark Caldarella (Zoning)
Paula Kay (Planning)
Vacancy (Economic Development)

www.oldsaybrookct.gov

Alternate Members
Elizabeth D. Steffen, Secretary
Janis Esty
Laurie Aparo

MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
Thursday, December 16, 2021
Via Hybrid Meeting
Town Hall 1st floor conference room
302 Main Street

I. CALL TO ORDER

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

Members Present: C. Heffernan, C. Savage, E. Steffen (seated), J. Esty (seated), M. Caldarella, L. Aparo (remote, seated), S. Roberts (not seated), L. Gray (not seated)

Members Absent: P. Kay, P. DeLisa

Staff Present: L. Wacker, Assistant Town Planner; C. Maharbiz, Recording Clerk

Audience Present: Joseph Wren (remote)

III. NEW BUSINESS

21-012 “Amos” Application to Conduct a Regulated Activity

Remove and replace an existing driveway culvert, dredge pond of sediment and debris, and remove dead or dying trees along north edge of pond within inland wetlands and 100’ upland review area.

273 Schoolhouse Road (Map 50/Lot 11-1)

Owner: Anita Amos Agent: Joseph Wren, P.E.

ACTION: Receive application, Review for completeness, Determine if regulated activities are significant and Ordinance 71 fees are required.

Agent J. Wren explained that Anita Amos, the owner of the property at 273 Schoolhouse Rd., would like to dredge a small area of an existing pond between the house and the road. The property had previously been split and the Planning Commission put a conservation easement over the pond area. As a result, the applicant had to ask for approval from the Planning Commission,

which was granted. The applicant would like to dredge a small area of land that is pushing into the pond to a foot and a half and return the pond edge to where it was originally for aesthetic and habitat quality. A certain area of the pond has become very shallow and filled with weeds and debris. There is no outflow from the pond, so the applicant believes the pond is spring or groundwater fed. The culvert that is under the driveway is misaligned and broken so the applicant would also like to replace the culvert, which she believes is there for high level overflow. On the side where the main dredging would occur a temporary stone entrance will be installed, which will be removed after the construction is finished. The applicant estimates a week or less to complete the work and would like to conduct the dredging in winter. The silt fence along the edge of the wetlands would stay in place until the upland area is stabilized with grass. In addition, the owner would like to remove a few dead or dying trees along the north edge. Richard Snarski visited the site and found no evidence of endangered species. The vegetation would remain as is.

C. Heffernan asked for the depth of the pond. Agent Wren stated that the owner does not know exactly, but believes it is 4-6 feet deep. He also asked if the pond is entirely on the applicant's property, which Agent Wren responded in the affirmative.

C. Savage asked if the pond typically freezes entirely, to which Agent Wren responded that he did not ask the owner that, but he believes it does.

L. Wacker asked if the culvert will be at the same level so that it will function in the same way. Agent Wren responded that the culvert will match existing conditions and it will not lower the level of the pond. She also asked whether the pond edges will become lawn or whether vegetation will grow on the sides once dredged. Agent Wren responded that the natural vegetation that is there will reestablish. The plan calls for 3 to 1 side slopes.

L. Gray asked whether the house in the photograph taken by L. Wacker is the applicant's house, to which Agent Wren and L. Wacker responded that it is not. Rather, the photo shows the house across the street.

MOTION to accept the application as complete, that the regulated activities are not significant and that no Ordinance 71 fees are required; **MADE:** by C. Heffernan; **SECONDED:** by E. Steffen; **VOTING IN FAVOR:** C Heffernan, C. Savage, E. Steffen, J. Esty, M. Caldarella, L. Aparo; **OPPOSED:** None; **ABSTAINING:** None; **APPROVED:** 6-0-0.

IV. **OLD BUSINESS** – none

V. **DISCUSSION**

- A. **Discussion of change of meeting time** – Decision made to postpone discussion until P. Kay is present.
- B. **Discussion educational workshop topics** – L. Wacker mentioned that Darcy Winther from DEEP offers virtual workshops that last 30-40 minutes and she can set up a workshop on a topic of the Commission's choice. In addition, the wetlands training course will be back online soon. It is an 8-hour course that will provide wetlands

certification. C. Heffernan asked all members to email him with any ideas of workshop topics by the next meeting.

VI. REGULAR BUSINESS

A. Meeting Minutes – 11/18/21

MOTION to approve the regular meeting minutes of November 18, 2021, as presented; **MADE:** by C. Heffernan; **SECONDED:** by E. Steffen; **VOTING IN FAVOR:** C. Heffernan, C. Savage, E. Steffen, J. Esty, M. Caldarella, L. Aparo; **OPPOSED:** None; **ABSTAINING:** None; **APPROVED:** 6-0-0.

B. Correspondence & Announcements

E. Steffen shared a holiday card from Nathan Jacobson & Associates and a copy of Storm Water Erosion Control publication.

C. Committee, Representative & Staff Reports

L. Wacker stated she issued an administrative permit for a shed at 226 Essex Rd. within the upland review area, minimal impact.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION to adjourn the meeting at 7:33 p.m. to the next regular meeting on January 20, 2021, Old Saybrook Town Hall, 1st Floor Conference Room and via Zoom; **MADE:** by C. Heffernan; **SECONDED:** by E. Steffen; **VOTING IN FAVOR:** C. Heffernan, C. Savage, E. Steffen, J. Esty, M. Caldarella, L. Aparo; **OPPOSED:** None; **ABSTAINING:** None; **APPROVED:** 6-0-0.

Respectfully Submitted,
Carolina Maharbiz, Recording Clerk