

TOWN OF FRANKLIN

INLAND WETLANDS & WATERCOURSES COMMISSION
FRANKLIN TOWN HALL
7 Meetinghouse Hill Rd.
Franklin, CT 06254

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES January 2, 2024, 7:30 p.m.

Call to Order: Chairman Baribeault called the meeting to order at 7:32 p.m.

Members Present: Chairman Baribeault, Secretary Niels Jeppesen, Don Smith. **Members Absent:** Leo Bienvenue, Vice Chairman Joseph LeVasseur. **Alternate Members Absent:** Calli Carboni, Josh Devercelly, John McGuire III.

Staff Present: Wetlands Official Ron Chalecki

Additions to Agenda:

MOTION 1 – made by Niels Jeppesen to add “Approve 2024 Meeting Calendar” to the agenda. Seconded by Don Smith. All in favor. Passed Unanimously.

Approval of Minutes:

MOTION 2 – made by Niels Jeppesen to approve minutes of October 3, 2023 as amended: 1)) Josh Devercelly was seated for Don Smith; 2) Elections of Officers: add “All in Favor. Passed Unanimously;” and 3) Adjournment changed to read “Calli Carboni made a motion to Adjourn at 7:45 PM. Joe LeVasseur seconded, All in favor. Passed Unanimously”

Don Smith seconded this MOTION. All in Favor. Passed Unanimously.

Report Wetlands Official - Ron Chalecki:

HEAVY RAINS: Considering heavy recent rain storms -- most areas in franklin did well. Construction sites look good with no major issues.

HILLANDALE FARMS: Took good care of their construction site considering large amounts of rainfall recently.

PETROWSKI PROPERTY / ROUTE 32 (SOUTHERN AREA): It was reported machinery has been performing some clearing activity on this property. This property is also very close to flood plain areas. Ron Chalecki to review and report back to IWWC.

MOTION 3 - made by Don Smith to suspend the rules for the Commission to hear New Business, Application 23-06, Hull Forest Products, at this point in the meeting. All in Favor. Passed Unanimously.

New Business:

IWWC 23-06 (HULL FOREST PRODUCTS – LEONARD ANGELASTRO): Jurisdictional Ruling, Property located AT 466 Lebanon Rd., Assessors Map 29 Lot 17; Zoned R-80; Existing Use of property is residence/forestry; Proposed Use is select timber harvest

Mike Bartlett, Hull Forest Products, was present. Submitted/reviewed Notification of Timber Harvest; Statewide Inland Wetlands & Watercourses Activity Reporting Form; Harvest Boundary Map; and Locus Map depicting topography. Clearing has been done on this property before. No large ruts were left by previous clearing. For this harvest, trees of 14” or larger will be cut and most hard woods and ash will be cut. Pines will be kept. We are waiting for frozen ground. Currently property is very wet and not preferred. Timeframe is 2 to 3 weeks for completion.

MOTION 4 - made by Don Smith to approve Application #23-06 as presented -- as a Jurisdictional Ruling. Niels Jeppesen seconded. All in favor. Passed Unanimously.

Unfinished Business:

IWWC BY-LAWS: Reviewed as submitted:

MOTION 5 - made by Niels Jeppesen to approve By Laws as final -- as presented. Don Smith seconded. All in favor. Passed Unanimously.

IWWC REGULATIONS:

Correspondence received from Halloran & Sage, Matthew J. Willis, Franklin Town Attorney, dated December 28, 2023. Mr. Willis reviewed IWWC Draft Regulations. Recommended:

- 1) Replace Section 9.4 with the following:

If a public hearing is scheduled, applicant shall notify all owners of record of adjacent property as determined by last completed grand list or property tax map. Notice shall be sent by certificate of mailing not less than fifteen (15) calendar days prior to date set for public hearing. At commencement of public hearing, applicant shall provide Agency with evidence of compliance with the foregoing. Applicant who fails to comply with Section 9.4 shall have their public hearing continued until appropriate notice has been completed.

- 2) Subject related to determining water rights is extremely difficult and it is recommended this not be put in the notice section
- 3) Since I can find no authority for proposed language in Section 13.3 which imposes liability insurance requirements as part of a wetlands permit – it should be deleted.

MOTION 6 - made by Niels Jeppesen to approve Regulations as final with Attorney Willis recommended changes 1 through 3 -- noted above. Don Smith seconded. All in favor. Passed Unanimously.

New Business: Above Also.

2024 MEETING CALENDAR: Reviewed as submitted:

MOTION 7 - made by Niels Jeppesen to approve 2024 Meeting Calendar with the change of Tuesday November 5 to **Wednesday November 6, 2024. Don Smith seconded. All in favor. Passed Unanimously.

Correspondence / Commission Matters: None

Public Comments: None

Adjournment:

MOTION 8 – made by Don Smith moved to adjourn at 7:58 PM. Niels Jeppesen seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion Passed Unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Sherry Pollard,
Administrative Assistant to the Commission