

**TOWN OF SALEM
INLAND WETLANDS & CONSERVATION COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2019 – 7:00 P.M.
SALEM TOWN HALL – CONFERENCE ROOM 1**

1. Call to Order

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

2. Roll Call/Seating of Alternates

Present were Chairman Natoli, Secretary Roger Phillips, Kimberly Bradley, Jim Mulholland, Linda Wildrick, and Alternate Commissioner Frank Abetti. Absent were Vice-Chairperson Diba Khan-Bureau, Commissioner Gale Balavender, and Alternate Commissioner Louis Allen. Also absent was Zoning & Wetlands Enforcement Officer (ZWEO) Matthew Allen.

M/S/C: Phillips/Mulholland, to seat Alternate Commissioner Abetti for Full Commissioner Khan-Bureau. Discussion: None. Voice vote, 5-0, all in favor.

3. Amendments to the Agenda – *none*

4. Approval of Minutes: September 16, 2019 Meeting – *tabled*

5. Public Comment: *none*

6. New Business:

IWCC#19-10 – 40 Lake View Avenue (004-000, 0.42 acres) – Applicant & Owner John Diamantini, for home renovation work in the 75 ft. Upland Review Area

Applicant and Owner John Diamantini was not present. Discussion ensued regarding the possibility of tabling the item or rejecting the application and waiving the re-application fee so as to not to violate any timeline within which the matter must be resolved. A brief recap of their discussion from the previous meeting regarding the issue was provided. It is believed that ZWEO Allen conducted an inspection of the area, but his findings are unknown at this time. Because the application has not yet been accepted, it was felt that it would be appropriate to table the application.

M/S/C: Phillips/Abetti, to table Application IWCC #19-10 – 40 Lake View Avenue (004-000, 0.42 acres) – Applicant & Owner John Diamantini, for home renovation work in the 75 ft. Upland Review Area, until the Commission's November Regular Meeting. Discussion: None. Voice vote, 5-0, all in favor.

7. Public Hearing(s): *none*

8. Old Business:

A. Grisafe properties restoration

Commissioner Mulholland recused himself from the item.

Soil Scientist Richard Snarski presented the revised plan for the restoration of the property located at 1 Fett Road. The proposed plan includes the previous and new wetlands delineation and the 12,000 square feet or one-quarter acre area of the property that is to be restored. The restoration would be conducted in May 2020. The Commissioners reviewed the list of proposed plantings, which includes sedges and flower producing species and would be spaced approximately 3.3 feet apart. Some of the plantings are aggressive (will spread readily) while others are not. Any invasive species will be eradicated. The area will be assessed and a monitoring report, including photographs, will be generated and provided to the Commission on an annual basis for a period of five (5) years. Usable access to the lake will be provided. Soil Scientist Snarski admittedly stated that he had forgotten to indicate the metal markers or placards delineating the wetlands area on the plan.

Commissioner Bradley felt that the restoration plan is reasonable, but expressed her concerns with the existence of the wetlands hydro conditions located within the access point of the Lake. While she understands the property owner's wish to have access to the waterfront, she stated the importance of the fringe wetlands and buffers to lakefront areas and urged them to be mindful and cautious of any action that is taken within that area, which continues to function as wetlands. Should the current and/or future property owner(s) wish to conduct any future action within that area, they would be required to present and obtain the Commission's approval for any proposed activity in the wetlands.

Chairman Natoli felt that a positive solution has been derived at and, because the status/progress of the area will be monitored over a period of time, the Commissioners will be able to determine its results should a similar issue arise in the future.

It was confirmed that the Commission shall receive regular monitoring reports and receive the proper notification of when the work will be conducted and is completed. Should the plan require any modifications or any of the plantings not survive, recommendations would be provided to the Commission for further approval.

M/S/C: Phillips/Wildrick, to accept the restoration plan for the property located at

1 Fett Road, with the following stipulations:

- 1) The area will be assessed and a monitoring report, including photographs, will be conducted and provided to the Commission**

on an annual basis for a period of five (5) years. The first report will be presented to the Commission in November 2020.

- 2) Rust-resistant metal placards, delineating the wetlands, will be placed every 50 feet alongside the shrub line.**

Discussion: None. Voice vote, 6-0, all in favor.

Chairman Natoli expressed his appreciation to the Commission for their patience and diligence in working through the issue(s). Commissioner Phillips expressed his appreciation to the property owners for their cooperation. The property owners and Soil Scientist Snarski thanked the Commission for their time.

9. Wetlands Enforcement Officer's Report – *not present*

10. Correspondence

The Connecticut Association of Conservation and Inland Wetlands Commissions (CACIWC) will be holding their 42nd Annual Meeting and Environmental Conference on Saturday, November 23 in Burlington. Commissioners wishing to attend the Conference will be reimbursed for the registration fee.

The Eastern Connecticut Conservation (ECC) District's *Outlook* Newsletter Publications regarding the Eight Mile River.

Commissioner Bradley informed the Commission that the Niantic River Watershed Protection Plan (NRWPP) will be updated. Interested parties are invited to participate in the Plan update workshops which will be held on Tuesday, October 29 from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. at the Chesterfield Fire Department in Oakdale and from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the Waterford Town Auditorium in Waterford.

11. Plus Deltas

Commissioner Phillips requested that "Plus Deltas" be changed to "Critique".

Chairman Natoli stated that the issue regarding the Grisafe property, which has been a long process lasting nearly one year, was a learning experience for him. One of the main errors that was made included the handling of three separate complaints as one, creating a confusing and somewhat difficult situation. He received advice from the State and learned the need to understand and follow the process and expressed his appreciation of Commissioner Bradley who encouraged the following of the process.

Commissioner Bradley felt that it was a learning process for all of the Commissioners and the importance of the process is, sometimes, not realized until issues arise. Taking advantage of the training sessions and opportunities that are available to them are also important when presented with such situations. What began as a small complaint regarding

a fence has grown to a more overarching concern for the overall condition of the Lake. She stated the importance of having open communications with and educating the owners residing around the Lake. She proposed the possibility of reaching out to the Gardner Lake Authority, who would be more appropriate to provide the necessary outreach.

Chairman Natoli stated that the Gardner Lake Authority did not contact him during this period. He stated that he would contact the Chairperson and/or Salem Representative of the Authority regarding the issue, its resolution, and the Lake, itself. It was noted that the Lake, an important element to the Town's economic development, also encountered a number of issues over the summer.

12. Adjournment

**M/S/C: Phillips/Mulholland, to adjourn the meeting at 7:49 p.m. Discussion: None.
Voice vote, 6-0, all in favor. Meeting Adjourned.**

Respectfully Submitted by:

Agnes T. Miyuki, Recording Secretary for the Town of Salem