

**TOWN OF SALEM
INLAND WETLANDS & CONSERVATION COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, JUNE 7, 2021 – 7:00 P.M.
SALEM TOWN HALL – VIRTUAL MEETING VIA ZOOM**

Per State of Connecticut, Governor Lamont Executive Order Number 7B, the Town of Salem Inland Wetlands & Conservation Commission Meeting will be following the suspension of in-person open meeting requirements.

Please click the link below to join the webinar:

<https://zoom.us/j/99335604285?pwd=TEdDa0l3Yk03Y2l3VUNlZzFPbktiUT09>

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Please note: **Public Comment** must be submitted prior to the meeting via email to planner.zeoweo@salemct.gov

1. Call to Order

Chairperson Bradley called the meeting to order at 7:12 p.m.

2. Roll Call/Seating of Alternates

Present were Chairperson Kimberly Bradley, Vice-Chairperson Diba Khan-Bureau, Commissioners Jennifer Messervy and Edward Natoli, Jr. Absent were Secretary Roger Phillips, Commissioner Jim Mulholland and Alternate Commissioners Lou Allen, Jr., Hank Horn, and Larry Moore. Also absent was Zoning & Wetlands Enforcement Officer (ZWEO) Matthew Allen.

3. Approval of Agenda

M/S/C: Natoli/Khan-Bureau, to approve the Inland Wetlands & Conservation Commission June 7, 2021 Regular Meeting Agenda. Discussion: None. Voice vote, 4-0, all in favor.

4. Approval of Minutes:

a. May 3, 2021 Regular Meeting Minutes

M/S/C: Khan-Bureau/Natoli, to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of May 3, 2021. Discussion: None. Voice vote, 4-0, all in favor.

5. Public Comment – none

6. New Business

a. IWCC 21-03 – 64 Lake View Ave. – Ross & Darcy Johnson, Owner/Applicant – for a permit to work within the 75' Upland Review Area.

Owner/Applicants Ross & Darcy Johnson stated that they are interested in demolishing and rebuilding a seasonal home on the property. The new home would be located on the same footprint or, if enlarged, will be extended on the west side of the property, away from the lake and towards the road. The building plans have been submitted for review and approval and they are in the process of hiring a builder. Currently, the property houses the neighbor's shed/garage and a prefabricated garage that was placed on the property approximately 15 years ago.

Discussion ensued and concerns were raised regarding any digging that will occur, the gradations on the property, and the possible proposed changes. The Commission requested that the Owner/Applicants supply a more detailed site plan and an erosion and sedimentation plan, indicating the existing topography of the property, that is signed off by the Architect, Soil Scientist, and Civil Engineer. The topography of the neighboring properties might also be helpful.

M/S/C: Khan-Bureau/Natoli, to table Application IWCC 21-03 – 64 Lake View Ave. – Ross & Darcy Johnson, Owner/Applicant – for a permit to work within the 75' Upland Review Area. Discussion: Chairperson Bradley will speak with the Wetlands Officer regarding the application. Voice vote, 4-0, all in favor.

b. POCD Update

Commissioner Khan-Bureau stated that the Planning & Zoning Commission has tasked her to discuss the Commission's contribution(s) to the 2022 Plan of Conservation & Development (POCD). The chapter that would pertain to the Commission are chapters 3, Natural Resources, and 4, Agriculture and Forestry, though, it was noted that their contribution(s) regarding agriculture would be as the Conservation Commission. The Commissioners agreed to include the item on their future agendas for discussion, adding that they should also seek the support of the Eightmile River Wild & Scenic Watershed Committee. Because the POCD must be completed by November 2021, Commissioner Natoli will begin highlighting those areas which he feels should be addressed and discussed. In addition, they should ensure that the maps related to open space and preservation areas are updated.

7. Public Hearing(s) – none

8. Old Business

a. IWCC 21-02—89 Norwich Rd.—Town of Salem, owner; Salem Recreation Commission, applicant—for an as-of-right determination (outdoor recreation use).

Based on their previous discussion, Disc Golf Consultant Shawn Callaghan, representing the Salem Recreation Commission, reported that the proposed disc golf course has been redesigned and rerouted to accommodate their request(s). The number of new crossings was reduced from six to three and two existing crossings – the Boy Scout trail, which connects the two Parks and includes a stacked stone crossing, and an informal walking trail located by the dam and is comprised of rocks sitting in the stream – will be utilized. Photographs of the crossing locations and crossing options were provided to the Commission. They are open to the Commission's suggestions and selection of crossings that they feel would provide the least amount of impact. Per the CT DEEP (Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection) Stream Crossing Guidelines, dated February 2008, and Stream Crossing Handbook, May 2018, and the suggested stream crossings as outlined in the Regulations, there will be no fill or excavation within the stream or wetlands, the crossings will be located at the narrowest and flattest sections of the stream, and the natural flow of the water and wildlife passage will not be impeded or inhibited.

Chairperson Bradley expressed her appreciation of the photographs and the careful consideration of the placement of the crossings. With hopes that the community will engage in the activity, she stated her preference for directing participants to the crossings to better protect the resources. She expressed a mild concern for the natural movement of the stones and recommended that a rock(s) or wooden-type bridge supported by rock(s) be utilized at the base of the dam should the dam flash and the bridge be relocated.

In response to Commissioner Messervy who questioned whether any grouting or drilling will be taking place to install the crossings, Disc Golf Consultant Callaghan stated that the crossings will be constructed on the rock to minimize any soil impacts. They do not anticipate any grouting or drilling in constructing the bridge. Screws might be utilized in the lumber, itself.

Commissioner Khan-Bureau also expressed her appreciation of the reduction of crossings, utilization of existing crossings, and submission of photographs.

The Commissioners appreciated the redesigning of the disc golf course and submitting to their request(s) and were agreeable with the types of bridges that were proposed.

**M/S/C: Khan-Bureau/Messervy, to approve Application IWCC 21-02—89
Norwich Rd. – Town of Salem, owner; Salem Recreation Commission,
applicant – for an as-of-right determination (outdoor recreation use).
Discussion: None. Voice vote, 4-0, all in favor.**

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

10. Correspondence – *none*

11. Plus Deltas/Announcements

Commissioner Messervy looks forward to learning and growing together with the Commission. Chairperson Bradley invited her to ask any questions and will inform her regarding any upcoming training opportunities.

Chairperson Bradley announced that UCONN Extension recently launched the Connecticut Trail Finder. She will be contacting the Recreation Commission regarding the possibility of including the town's trails and is working with the Salem Land Trust to include their trails. She encouraged everyone to visit cttrailfinder.com.

12. Adjournment

M/S/C: Khan-Bureau/Messervy, to adjourn the meeting at 8:13 p.m. Discussion:
None. Voice vote, 4-0, all in favor.

Respectfully Submitted by:

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