

**TOWN OF SALEM
INLAND WETLANDS & CONSERVATION COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2020 – 7:00 P.M.
SALEM TOWN HALL – CONFERENCE ROOM 1**

1. Call to Order

Chairman Natoli called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. Roll Call/Seating of Alternates

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

3. Approval of Agenda

M/S/C: Wildrick/Bradley, to add the following items to the Agenda:

6(b) FY2020/21 Budget Discussion

8(a) Eightmile River Wild & Scenic Watershed Committee Feedback regarding the Wetlands Violation on the property located on Shingle Mill Road

Discussion: None. Voice vote, 5-0, all in favor.

4. Approval of Minutes:

A. January 13, 2020 Regular Meeting Minutes

M/S/C: Bradley/Wildrick, to approve the Meeting Minutes of January 13, 2020.

Discussion: None. Voice vote, 5-0, all in favor.

5. Public Comment – none

6. New Business

a. IWCC #19-13 – 630 Norwich Rd. – RMD Land Development, LLC, owner – For an as-of-right determination for use incidental to the maintenance of a residential property.

Robert Gagnon, Owner, RMD Land Development, LLC, presented an as-of-right determination application to the Commissioners, who reviewed the materials, including an A-2 Survey of the property, for the purpose of:

- removing rocks and debris from the beach area – He would like to take advantage of the current drawdown and eliminate the rocks located within 25' of the waterline by raking the area. He will not be adding any fill nor eliminating any of the existing sand.

Discussion ensued as to whether the proposed activity would be occurring on the property designated as part of the Town of Salem or the State of Connecticut. Should it be the latter, the proposed activity would not be under their purview, but under that of the CT DEEP (State of Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection).

Though it was felt that the activity would be occurring in a very small area and would,

thus, have very minimal impact, it was noted that the rocks do provide a habitat for numerous aquatic lives and are an important aspect to the life of the lake.

- removing large stumps and subsequent regrading, rake, and reseeding of the area – The activity would occur within the 75' upland review area and would require a large excavator. No standing trees will be removed and there would be no activity within the water. Topsoil will be brought in to fill the holes where the stumps were once housed and the area would be re-graded, re-seeded, and hay would be lain down. No fertilizer will be used. He estimated that approximate 10 yards of fill would be brought in. Stating the existence of specially made seed mixes for various areas, Chairman Natoli requested/recommended that a wetlands mix be planted. A silt fence will be installed following the removal of rock and debris from the beach area and prior to pulling the stumps.
- repair the existing boat launch
- repair the existing floating dock – The dock which is currently installed in the lake is an EZ dock that is constructed of plastic with posts that are pounded into the ground. He plans to add branches to the dock that would extend approximately 50' into the lake so as to accommodate his collection of boats and jet skis. The dock would reside within the properties of both the Town and the State. The dock would be removed during the cold winter months.
- installation of picnic tables
- necessary mowing, raking, and weed-whacking
- clean-up of leaves
- installation of blocks and buoys

M/S/C: Khan-Bureau/Bradley, to approve the activity, as proposed, for Application #IWCC 19-13 as an as-of-right determination on the property located at 630 Norwich Road. Any activity beyond the property line of the Town of Salem will require the approval of the relevant State Agency(ies). Discussion: The property will be inspected by the ZWEO following the completion of the proposed activity. Voice vote, 5-0, all in favor.

b. FY2020/21 Budget

Chairman Natoli proposed, and the Commissioners agreed, to present a flat budget.

7. Public Hearing(s) – none

8. Old Business

a. Eightmile River Wild & Scenic Watershed Committee Feedback regarding the Wetlands Violation on the property located on Shingle Mill Road

Chairman Natoli reported that he discussed the issue regarding the violation located on Shingle Mill Road with the members of the Eightmile River Wild & Scenic Watershed Committee. He plans to forward the letter that was mailed to the Army Corps of Engineers to Eric Thomas,

Watershed Manager, CT DEEP, who attended the Committee's recent meeting. While comfortable with the Commission's expertise, review, and determination(s) as well as that of the Eightmile River Wild & Scene Watershed Committee Program Director Patricia Young, he would also like to request an additional (third-party) opinion regarding the violation and proposed remediation.

b. Fett Road

Chairman Natoli reported that he has met with Public Works Director Donald Bourdeau, Jr., who has approved the hiring of the Town Engineer to review the drainage issue. He hopes to have the Engineer's report at their next Regular Meeting.

9. Wetlands Enforcement Officer's Report

WEO Allen reported on the receipt of a letter from Forester Chris Casadei, Hull Forest Products, regarding a proposed timber harvest on a 90-acre parcel located at 375 Forsyth Road, which will require an as-of-right determination from the Commission in the near future. The property is also home to a stream that is located within the Riparian Corridor Overlay Zone (RCOZ). As such, the application will also be presented, reviewed and approved by the Planning & Zoning Commission. Extensive discussion ensued regarding the regulation, which the Planning & Zoning Commission has been discussing and reviewing for several months, and the Commission's involvement, as the Conservation Commission, in any decisions that are made by the Planning & Zoning Commission.

10. Correspondence

- a. Recent issue of *Connecticut Wildlife Magazine*
- b. Information regarding the 36th Annual 2020 Connecticut Land Conservation Conference

11. Plus Deltas/Announcements

Commissioner Bradley reported that the Niantic River Watershed Committee is actively seeking a representative from the Town of Salem to serve on the Committee.

12. Adjournment

**M/S/C: Khan-Bureau/Mulholland, to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 p.m. Discussion: None.
Voice vote, 5-0, all in favor. Meeting Adjourned.**

Respectfully Submitted by:

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