

MINUTES

Members Present:	M. Harper, Q. Kessel, C. Rittenhouse, J. Silander, and W. Ouimet
Members Absent:	E. King, M. Soares
Alternates Present:	M. Davis
Alternates Absent:	
Staff Present:	J. Kaufman

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Silander called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. in Chair Soares' absence. Members present are M. Harper, Q. Kessel, C. Rittenhouse, J. Silander, and W. Ouimet, and alternates M. Davis. Alternate M. Davis is seated for absent member E. King.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Kessel MOVED, Ouimet seconded approval of the May 18, 2021 minutes as presented.

Motion PASSED unanimously.

The CC recognizes Field Trip Notes from May 13, 2021 regarding W1620 and P810.

The CC recognizes Field Trip Notes from June 12, 2021 regarding Easement Monitoring.

OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

- No members of public present other than applicants.

OLD BUSINESS – Moved to Follow New Business Items

A. Conservation Easement Monitoring

Rittenhouse noted that having copies of the landowner letter and Kaufman's business card at hand was helpful as we were approached by an abutting landowner.

The pace of monitoring is such that it may be 10 years before we complete a visit to each easement. Kaufman suggested approaching the town council for funding, e.g., for an intern. Kessel noted that 10% per year is better than the previous pace.

B. Request for retroactive approval of a gravel road and associated culverted wetlands crossing constructed within the Gifford Estates Sec. III Conservation Easement, Ronald Beebe Applicant/Owner (PZC File 810)

Kaufman introduced the request. Allow the road to stay and grant retroactive approval. The applicant will need to apply for retroactive wetland permit. Or, we could ask the road to be removed and restore the wetland.

Kessel MOVED, Rittenhouse seconded, that the improved road and installed headwall culvert are inconsistent with the terms of the conservation easement granted to the town. These activities may have impacted the wetlands. The CC urges PZC to not grant the approval. Further, granting a retroactive approval sets a dangerous precedent.

Motion PASSED unanimously.

Kaufman introduced a request to hunt on the conservation easement. The terms of the easement state "killing of wildlife" is only allowed by permission of the PZC. The CC noted that hunting is a form of killing of wildlife.

Rittenhouse MOVED, Kessel seconded, that hunting on a town-held conservation easement may be permitted by the PZC, provided hunting is a by-permission activity of the easement, conducted in a matter consistent with the terms of the easement, and as allowed and regulated by DEEP.

Motion PASSED 5-1-0.

NEW BUSINESS

A. W1621 Application of R. Cardinal for a Single Family Dwelling, Onsite Septic System and Drinking Water Well, and a Driveway with a Wetland Crossing on property located on the Northside of Pleasant Valley Road, immediately east of 149-155 Pleasant Valley Road (Assessor's Parcel ID 36.88.90)

Kaufman introduced the application and noted that due to direct wetland impact there will be a public hearing for this application.

Kaufman asked applicant to contract a wetland function report that is forthcoming.

CC asked about right to drain. Is there an agreement in place between applicant and neighboring pond that will receive footing water?

CC asked about improving the existing farm road and using it as the driveway instead of constructing the new driveway. Applicant responded that the farm road will be used as a farm road and wished to have separate farm road and driveway access to the property.

CC asked about alternative course for the driveway. Applicant responded that the driveway as proposed will be on the driest part of the field and utilize an existing farm crossing of the stream.

CC asked if the stream is seasonal? Applicant responded that it is seasonal, typically dry in winter and wet beginning in spring.

In lieu of a motion, and in absence of the Wetland Function and Values report, the following points are conveyed to the Inland Wetland Commission when evaluating wetlands impacts of this proposed development:

- Consider crossing the stream at the narrowest point to minimize impacts, compared to those impacts from replacing the 12" culverts with 24" culverts
- Clarify the right to drain to the co-owned pond

- Clarify the alternatives analysis regarding if the proposed alternative is the one with the least impact to the stream, pond, and upland review area
- Ensure the project conforms to the DEEP erosion control guidelines

B. W1622 Application of M. Rivera for Driveway Culvert Improvements Associated with a New Single Family Dwelling on Property Located on the Southside of Bassetts Bridge Road, immediately east of 420 Bassetts Bridge Road (Assessor's Parcel ID 30.120.4-2)

Kaufman introduced the application on behalf of applicant M. Rivera, who is present for the meeting. The proposed work is to repair an existing crossing. The proposed residential home is not in the upland review area.

Kessel MOVED, Davis seconded, that the project is not likely to have a significant negative impact to the intermittent stream provided appropriate erosion and sedimentation control measures are enacted during the repair and those control measures are removed after the site has stabilized completely. Further, existing and proposed stockpiles should be stabilized, seeded and mulched.

Motion PASSED unanimously.

REPORTS FROM COMMISSION MEMBERS

- Kessel asked about drains on Chaffeeville Road near the Fenton River. Kaufman will check on this.

COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were noted:

- Inland Wetlands Agent Monthly Report
- CT DEEP Permit Application for Pesticides in State Waters – 15 Farmstead Rd

FUTURE MEETINGS

The next meeting of the Conservation Commission is scheduled for July 21, 2021.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:56 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

A rectangular box containing a handwritten signature in black ink. The signature is written in a cursive style and appears to read "CWR Rittenhouse".

Chadwick Rittenhouse
Secretary