



TOWN OF RIDGEFIELD
Inland Wetlands Board
WEB BASED SPECIAL MEETING VIA ZOOM

APPROVED/REVISED MINUTES

These minutes are a general summary of the meeting and are not a verbatim transcription.

September 09, 2024

Members present: Susan Baker, chair; Tim Bishop, Carson Fincham, Chris Phelps

Members absent: David Smith, Alan Pilch

Also present: Caleb Johnson, Wetlands Agent; Aarti Paranjape, Recording Secretary, Isaac Flattau, Robert Hendrick, Kate Throckmorton, Peter Olson

I: Call to order:

Ms. Baker, Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM.

II: Executive Session

1. Interview of possible Inland Wetland Board members

Mr. Bishop motioned to enter the executive session; Mr. Carson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Members came out of executive session at 7:32PM.

Mr. Phelps motioned and Mr. Fincham seconded to appoint Mr. Isaac Flattau to fill a vacancy on the Inland Wetlands Board. Motion carried unanimously.

III: Discussion (s)

1. IW-24-24; 17 East Ridge; Summary Ruling application for new construction and related appurtenances and site improvements of single-family dwelling damaged by fire, within the upland review area of wetlands and watercourses. *Owner/Applicant: Robert Hendrick.*

<https://ridgefieldct.portal.opengov.com/records/97816>

Mr. Olson updated the Board with the questions raised by Board at the last meeting stating the impervious surface in the upland review area is approximately 4340 Sq ft, and that it is under the allowable threshold per regulations before the stormwater requirements kick in.

Ms. Throckmorton gave an overview if the revised plans. She said that the buffer has been expanded to twenty feet average with minimum of twelve feet. Invasive plants shall be removed manually and replaced by native plantings of sedges and rushes. The native plantings also include shrubs and a few trees for canopy. A meadow is proposed which will be mowed once a year. The existing roof leaders' pipe which currently discharges directly into the pond will be removed. The proposed roof leaders are redirected to the base of the wall. The sheet flow will run over the existing vegetation before it enters the pond. She prefers

the sheet flow to avoid any scouring. The impervious surface is reduced, instead of two patios, there will be a single patio of pervious pavers, driveway is also trimmed down.

Mr. Bishop inquired about pond aeration and the timing when the mowing will be done once a year. Preference should be November to provide additional environment to wildlife and allow the plantings to go dormant.

Ms. Throckmorton confirmed that the mowing shall be once a year, sometime between November and March. There is a five foot mowed access to the pond which will be maintained. She added that there are three existing aerating systems, which will be updated.

Homeowner Mr. Hendrick expressed concerns over the maintenance of the pond from leaf debris falling into it, and if mowing only once a year will hinder the collection of leaves.

Mr. Fincham commented that studies have shown that the buffer around the pond with shrubs and trees are healthier for the life of pond rather than having grasses till the edge of pond. The buffer helps to keep leaves from blowing into the pond.

Following conditions were stated:

1. Adding a maintenance description and schedule to the planting and pond aeration plans that includes the dates between which the annual mowing will take place.

Mr. Bishop motioned to approve the above application with special condition; Mr. Carson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

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VII: Adjourn

Hearing no further business, Ms. Baker adjourned the meeting at 7:54 PM.

Submitted by

Aarti Paranjape
Recording Secretary