



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.

November 04, 2024

Members present: Susan Baker, chair; Tim Bishop; vice chair; Carson Fincham, Alan Pilch, Secretary; David Smith, Keith Carlson

Members Absent:

Also present: Caleb Johnson; Inland Wetlands Agent, Aarti Paranjape; Recording Secretary.

I: Call to order:

Ms. Baker, Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

II: Discussion (s)

1. **(Contd.) IW-24-21; 599 Branchville Road;** Plenary Ruling application for a stream crossing and related site work for an accessway/driveway with some related drainage work within the upland review area of wetlands and watercourses. *Owner: Moreton Binn. Applicant: Robert Jewell.*
<https://ridgefieldct.portal.opengov.com/records/97450>

Discussion ensued on the conditions to be stated if the Board agrees to the approval. Mr. Pilch stated the conditions for the stormwater maintenance plan agreement which should be monitored quarterly, the invasive species removal plan which should be monitored by the professional biologist or landscape architect, any changes to the plans when the applicant presents to Planning and Zoning shall be reviewed by this Board again, sediment and erosion measures shall be installed prior to nay commencement of work.

Mr. Fincham expressed concerns regarding the bridge activity having a significant impact. He opined that the existing bridge is feasible and prudent alternative and that applicant didn't give any letter from the fire department stating that the existing bridge is not strong to handle the emergency vehicles. He opined that there is a feasible and prudent alternative and that the proposed bridge will have significant impact on the wetlands. Members discussed the possible resolution of denial reasons. Mr. Fincham will send his reasons of denial to Mr. Johnson to consult with the town counsel.

Ms. Baker said the last day to render a decision is November 14, where members have to vote.

2. **(Contd.) IW-24-19; 27 Abbott Avenue;** Plenary Ruling application for the construction of 10 residential town houses with associated drainage and landscaping within the upland review area of wetlands and watercourses. *Owner: Veton Alimi. Applicant: Brian Carey.*
<https://ridgefieldct.portal.opengov.com/records/97127>

Discussion ensued, where Mr. Pilch expressed concerns with placement of snow, the snow may end up in the buffer planting area, the proximity of stormwater system closer to the buildings, Construction of buildings and heavy equipment will end up compacting the soils. He opined that there will be a detrimental impact to the wetlands, due the increase in impervious surface, stormwater runoff will have negative impact due to pollutant loading to the wetlands. The functioning of rain garden will be compromised. Discussion ensued regarding LID, stormwater system, deep hole testing.

Ms. Baker said that a resolution of denial shall be drafted with reasons of denial. Board has to vote by November 14, 2024.

VII: Adjourn

Hearing no further business, Ms. Baker adjourned the meeting at 8:00 PM.

Submitted by

Aarti Paranjape
Recording Secretary