



## TOWN OF RIDGEFIELD INLAND WETLANDS BOARD

### APPROVED/REVISED MINUTES

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

May 08, 2025

Members present: Susan Baker, Chair; Alan Pilch, Secretary; Tim Bishop, Vice Chair; Carson Fincham, Keith Carlson, Noah Berkowicz

Members Absent: David Smith

Also present, Caleb Johnson, Inland Wetlands Agent; Aarti Paranjape, Recording Secretary; Roman Rozinka, Joseph Fossi, Brandon Arcamone, Mike Mazzucco, Marc Greco, Garry Holland.

#### I. Call to order:

Ms. Baker, Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:01 PM.

#### II: Discussion:

1. **(Continued) IW-25-9; 238 Mimosa Circle;** Summary Ruling application for excavation related to basement expansion within the upland review area of wetlands and watercourses. Owner/Applicant: Roman Rozinka. <https://ridgefieldct.portal.opengov.com/records/100583>

Mr. Carson explained that due to a conflict of interest, he would be recusing himself from this application.

Mr. Rozinka presented the drainage system, which has recharge chambers.

Mr. Pilch stated that two rows of eight feet long chambers end to end should be sufficient. He added that it should capture 1.5 inches of rainfall. A catch basin at the overflow grade will work fine. The chamber shall have six inches of stone below, foot on side and another six inches above, along with filter fabric on side and top. He added that the inspection should be done before it is backfilled so that the chambers can be seen. Top of the chamber should be at grade. He added that the catch basin should be closer to the discharge along the brook. The area which has eroded should be stabilized by using coir logs and vegetate to stabilize.

He suggested swapping the Viburnum with silky dogwood or gray dogwood or red and Black choke berry as the viburnum species is susceptible to viburnum leaf beetle.

Ms. Baker stated that the planting shall be shown on the plan where it is proposed and submitted to office. Work to be completed by mid-June.

Board stated following special conditions:

- Planting area to be shown on the plans.
- Viburnum plant shall be swapped with approved species as stated by Board and shown on plans.
- Four 330 XLHd cultec recharger storm chambers.
- Filter fabric to the chambers and riprap or coir logs added at the overflow point.

**Mr. Bishop motioned and Mr. Carlson seconded to approve the Summary Ruling application with special conditions and special conditions. Mr. Fincham recused. Motion carried 5-0-1.**

Publication date is May 15 and effective date is May 16, 2025.

2. **IW-25-10; 54 Ketcham Road;** Summary Ruling application for construction of single-family residence and associated grading within the upland review area of wetlands and watercourses. Owner: Joseph Fossi. Applicant: Steven Trinkaus.  
<https://ridgefieldct.portal.opengov.com/records/100658>

Ms. Baker informed the Board the applicant since the last meeting has stated that the location of the septic system has not changed.

Mr. Fossi said that the well drilling will have to be done before the construction of the dwelling begins. The house is rotated at the north east corner and approximately fifteen feet is in the upland review area. The septic will not be in the upland review area. The limit of disturbance will be at the silt fence line shown on the plan, and special care is to be taken at the corner that is in the upland review area.

Mr. Pilch expressed concern that during construction the disturbance could be more and could infringe upon the wooded area. Mr. Pilch commented that the runoff from the driveway should be directed to a drainage system.

Mr. Bishop and Mr. Fincham agreed with Mr. Pilch and expressed concerns that without the plans they are not comfortable approving the application.

Mr. Fossi confirmed that the limit of construction is the silt fence and he will also install orange construction fence which will keep all the disturbance during construction away from the wetlands. He added that the new homeowner is thinking of putting in rain gardens.

Discussion ensued and Board agreed that the plans showing the rain garden or the stormwater system will be needed in order to approve the application. They indicated that the rotation of house would be acceptable in the upland review area, given proper protection as discussed.

Applicant will return to Board with plans showing drainage at the driveways.

*The application was continued to the May 22 meeting.*

3. **IW-25-13; 384 Branchville Road;** Summary Ruling application for installation of an above ground swimming pool with partial wrap around deck within the upland review area of wetlands and watercourses. Owner/Applicant: Brandon Arcamone.  
<https://ridgefieldct.portal.opengov.com/records/100803>

Mr. Arcamone updated the Board, surveyor shall update the survey where the pool is pushed closer to the house.

As far as the violation, he mentioned that the wood chips were removed and the pile of dirt shall be removed and spread in the front of the property and not in upland review area. He added silt fence shall be installed this week.

He is working with landscape architect who will assist with the planting plan.

He said he will submit everything before the next meeting. He checked if its okay to extend the existing boulder line.

Discussion ensued and Board mentioned the trees which were removed shall be replaced with canopy trees. The area behind the boulders shall be restored. They said the plans shall show the extension of boulder wall and proposed plantings.

*The application was continued to the May 22 meeting.*

4. **IW-25-16; 3 Tackora Trail;** Summary Ruling application for construction of an inground swimming pool, patio and stormwater management system within the upland review area of wetlands and watercourses. Owner: Michael Morano. Applicant: Michael Mazzucco.  
<https://ridgefieldct.portal.opengov.com/records/100936>

Mr. Mazzucco gave an overview of the project. The proposed pool is sixteen feet by thirty-two feet with patio. There is existing stormwater system, the trench drain along the patio will connect to the existing system. A safety fence is proposed around the pool. The only work in upland review area is grading and the stormwater system.

Mr. Pilch expressed concern with the debris and wood chips deposited near the wetlands flagging. He added that should be cleared and stabilized since its close to the wetlands. He commented that that although not related to the project, however at the sitewalk he noticed an eroded area near the driveway and noticed sedimentation. His concerns were that this sediment might end up in the upland review area. He suggested that the runoff should be directed towards the catch basins and the existing chambers. He added that the limit of lawn should be marked where the silt fence line is currently drawn.

Mr. Bishop inquired the distance between the regulated area and the location where the erosion is noticed. He agreed that that applicant should do engineered mitigation.

Mr. Fincham said he noticed the erosion at the site walk but comfortable stating the above comments as the condition of approvals.

Following conditions were stated as special conditions:

- Safety fence around the pool to be no more than five feet from the pool patio.
- Removal of debris and woodchips adjacent to wetlands.
- Mitigate the erosion issues as noticed at the sitewalk at the flat part of the driveway.
- Limit of lawn to be maintained where the current silt fence line is drawn approximately seventy-five feet away from the wetlands.

**Mr. Pilch motioned and Mr. Fincham seconded to approve the Summary Ruling application with special conditions and special conditions. Motion carried unanimously.**

Publication date is May 15 and effective date is May 16, 2025.

5. **IW-25-17; 0 Blue Ridge Road;** Summary Ruling application for installation of a beaver deceiver at Turtle Pond within the watercourse. Owner/Applicant: Eight Lakes Community Association.  
<https://ridgefieldct.portal.opengov.com/records/100957>

Mr. Greco gave a background of the Turtle pond issues. Beaver dams are creating overflow of water on the roads, eventually causing hazards. Town public works removed the beaver dams a few times, but the beaver erected the dam again. Beaver deceiver is proposed which will help regulate the height of the pond. Water won't breach on the road and it will enhance the pond ecology. The cost of beaver deceiver will be approximately twenty five hundred dollars which will be shared among the pond neighbors. He gave the details of how the beaver deceiver will be installed. A wire mesh shall be submerged in water. A pipe will be connected under the beaver dam and the gravity will take the water downgrade. The pipe will extend twenty feet beyond the dam. The pipe opening shall be covered with metal grid so that beaver cannot access.

Mr. Fincham said it is a great solution and inquired how it will change the level of the pond.

Mr. Greco mentioned that there some kind of lever which can be lowered or raised during maintenance. The annual maintenance will be required.

Mr. Pilch inquired if this is a permanent solution and that if maintenance shall be required. He asked if the pipe would go over it or cut through.

Mr. Holland from 110 Old Sib Road commented about the nuisance caused by the beaver dam due to which, Old Sib road gets flooded and in winter cause icing on the road making it dangerous. The banks at the Old Sib road are very low and when water overflows it causes flooding on the road. Lot of accidents have happened due to ice. He added that his property has also gotten flooded which has caused erosion due to which some of the trees have been affected and are now hazardous and can fall on his property any time.

Board inquired when would this beaver deceiver be installed. Mr. Greco said May 29 it will be installed.

Mr. Bishop said that as a professional wetlands scientist, he could state that beaver deceivers work and keep the health of the pond and wetlands safe. The safety concern caused due to beaver dam can be alleviated by installing a beaver deceiver.

Mr. Johnson will inspect the installation of the beaver deceiver as the work progresses.

**Mr. Bishop motioned to approve the Summary ruling application and Mr. Carlson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.**

Publication date is May 15 and effective date is May 16, 2025.

**III: Applications for Receipt(s):**

1. **IW-25-19; 124 Spectacle Lane;** Summary Ruling application for construction of an inground swimming pool, patio and stormwater management system within the upland review area of wetlands and watercourses. Owner: Glenn Boyer. Applicant: Stephanie Brown. For receipt and scheduling a sitewalk and discussion.  
<https://ridgefieldct.portal.opengov.com/records/101034>
2. **IW-25-21; 0 Fire Hill Road;** Plenary Ruling application for construction of trails, board walks, and associated site work for the Norwalk River Valley Trail system within the upland review area of wetlands and watercourses on Town of Ridgefield parcels (H11-0048, H12-0071, H12-0074, H12-0031, H12-0056) and State of Connecticut owned parcels (H13-0057, H13-0054, H13-0051, H12-0043). Owner: Town of Ridgefield, State of Connecticut. Applicant: Alexander Wojtkowiak. For receipt and scheduling a sitewalk and public hearing.  
<https://ridgefieldct.portal.opengov.com/records/100987>
3. **IW-25-22; 75A New Street;** Summary Ruling application for construction of a four-bedroom single family dwelling, septic system, driveway, and stormwater management system within the upland review area of wetlands and watercourses. Owner: Glenn Boyer. Applicant: Michael Mazzucco. For receipt and scheduling a sitewalk and discussion.  
<https://ridgefieldct.portal.opengov.com/records/101118>
4. **IW-25-23; 283 Main Street;** Summary Ruling application for revision to prior Inland Wetlands Board approval IW-25-1. Owner: Philip Van Riper. Applicant: Katherine Throckmorton. For receipt and scheduling a sitewalk and discussion.  
<https://ridgefieldct.portal.opengov.com/records/101073>

**Mr. Pilch motioned and Mr. Berkowicz seconded to receive the above applications. Motion carried unanimously.**

*Public Hearing for IW-25-21 scheduled on June 12. Sitewalk scheduled on May 18.*

*Site walk for IW-25-19, IW-25-22 and IW-25-23 scheduled on May 18 and discussion on May 22, 2025.*

**IV: List of Ongoing Enforcement by Agent:**

1. **384 Branchville Road – Wetlands Violation**

*Discussed during the above application.*

**V: Other Business:**

**VI: Approval of Minutes:**

- **Inland Wetlands Meeting:** April 24, 2025  
**Mr. Carlson motioned to approve the above minutes. Mr. Fincham seconded. Mr. Bishop, Mr. Pilch and Mr. Berkowicz abstained. Motion carried 3-0-3.**
- **Sitewalk Minutes:** May 04, 2025

**Mr. Carlson motioned to approve the above minutes. Mr. Fincham seconded. Mr. Bishop and Mr. Berkowicz abstained. Motion carried 4-0-2.**

**VII: Adjourn**

Hearing no further business, Ms. Baker adjourned the meeting at 8:47 PM.

Submitted by

Aarti Paranjape, Recording Secretary