



Town of Norfolk
Inland Wetlands Agency
Monday August 2, 2021
Special Meeting 7:00 pm
Minutes

1. Call to Order – 7:02 pm; Hartley Mead, Chair

2. Roll Call – Mead (Chair), Tucker, Vice Chair, Webb, Kessin (Acting Secretary), Lovett, IWO Halloran. Lovett sat as a voting member. Myron Kwast was absent but sent comments.

Also attending: Kate Johnson from the Foundation for Norfolk Living; Mike Ziska, town attorney; Ken Hrica, engineer; George Logan, wetlands soil specialist, and Matt Riiska, the first selectman.

3. Agenda Review (Report of August 2 from Lenard Engineering).

4. Approval of Minutes: Special Meeting of July 12, 2021; Moved Clint Webb, 2nd Byron Tucker. Approved.

5. Public Comment: see below

6. Old Business: Continuation of Public Hearing #21-004 Haystack Woods Development. Possible deliberation and vote.

Ms. Johnson presented a letter from the State of CT saying that private roads could not be funded by the current public mechanism. There was another letter from Lenard Engineering answering technical questions from the previous meeting.

The two larger questions that had been raised at the July 12 meeting were addressed. The first question concerned the composition of the roadbed and a retaining wall and its effects on wetlands. A request by the committee for four cross-sections on the road to determinate whether the flow of water would be impeded from the wetland area to the wetland on the other side of a rebuilt road. Mr. These cross sections were done with four schematics of the grade and composition at various points along the road. Mr. Hriska described these efforts. Drainage across the proposed road was good because it had a porous substrate of gravel and sand. The road should not be overtopped by a hundred-year storm.

A 5' high retaining wall will be installed, ending at the lower end of the improved road, where it joins Old Colony Road. There will be a drainage pipe along the upland (eastern) side of the wall, which

will handle flow from land owned by the Norfolk Center Cemetery Association. The pipe will join a water course on Old Colony Road. Clint Webb pointed out that improving drainage sometimes comes with unexpected effects because the more distal part of the wetland could dry out if water has drained too quickly from the lower part. There was discussion of a clay plug to retain water. Alternatively, Mr. George Logan is looking into native plants that would act to retain water.

At the July 12 meeting Chairman Mead ask for a survey of the plants in the affected areas and this has now been done by Mr. Logan, who found moderate diversity and some invasive plants. He catalogued the types of plants and soil characteristics. The road may make the area a little wetter but will not seriously affect stability of the wetland. He showed noticed a vestigial road that connects the town garage with the road that is being altered. The thought was that if this road could be restored a lot of excavation would be avoided. For various reasons, including land ownership and the lack of agreement from the Cemetery Association, which owns the land, and from the town, this seems impractical. The vestigial road separates two wetland parcels, which would be connected if it is removed.

Continuance: IWO Halloran pointed out the time is growing short as the next part of the application is due in about 40 days. All extensions allowed by Governor Lamont in response to the Covid-19 epidemic have been almost exhausted. A motion was made to continue the Special Meeting on August 30, which is several days before the deadline. Byron Tucker and Hartley Mead seconded. Approved.

New Business: First Selectman Matt Riiska informed the committee of two projects. First, a new water line is being installed on Mountain Road. He will keep an eye on the work and keep us informed. Second, the solar field project at the Transfer Station is planned to deliver 4MW and is being developed by Lonestar. The project is proceeding without need for more land. Finally, Mr. Riiska requested that bills for legal and consultant fees be sent through his office because fiscal surprises need to be avoided due to a tight budget.

WEO Report: The property on Bruey Rd, which we have review in the past, has all required Wetlands permits, but still suffers from erosion problems.

Adjournment: 9:35 PM. Moved Kessin; seconded by Clint Webb.

Respectfully,

Richard Kessin, Acting Secretary

August 4, 2021