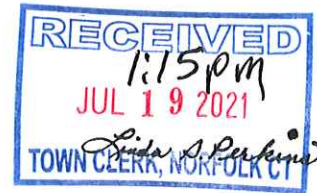


**Town of Norfolk**  
**Inland Wetlands Agency**  
**Monday July 12, 2021**  
**Special Meeting 7:00 pm**  
**Minutes**



1. Call to Order – 7:05 pm
2. Roll Call – Mead (Chair), Tucker, Webb, Kessin, Kwast, IWO Halloran
3. Agenda Review – None
4. Approval of Minutes – Regular Meeting June 7, 2021 Approved unanimously
5. Public Comment – None
6. Old Business
  - A. Public Hearing 7:10 pm Application #21-011, Town of Norfolk Applicant, River Place Bridge Replacement over Blackberry River.

IWO Halloran explained that a Special Meeting on July 26, 2021 was needed because the Legal Notice for tonight's meeting was not sent out on time. Agency members approved a Special Meeting as requested at 7:00 pm on July 26, 2021.

- B. Continuation of Public Hearing #21-004 Haystack Woods development.

Mr. Meade began by explaining that he felt there was no conflict of interest on his part because he is a member of the Norfolk Center Cemetery Board, and thus he would participate in the discussion of the Haystack Woods development. Agency members agreed with his decision.

Kate Johnson, President of the Foundation for Norfolk Living, began the Foundation's presentation. She apologized for distributing necessary materials to the Agency quite late, and suggested that a continuance of the public hearing might be appropriate. She then introduced Ken Hrica, the head engineer of the project, who made the rest of the presentation.

Mr. Hrica began by distributing 6 new sets of application items to each agency member and IWO Halloran. Mr. Hrica emphasized that the current proposal is for Phase I of 10 housing units, and there are no plans for a Phase II. Later on Ms. Johnson reiterated this point. The

rest of Mr. Hrica's presentation focused on wetlands/water control issues between the intersection of the proposed Haystack Woods Road and Old Colony Road and wetlands flag (WF) 35. Most of the issues he addressed had been raised in the June 30, 2021 report by Lenard Engineering, Inc. He asserted there were essentially no changes to other parts of the proposed development. To meet Town Road grading requirements, the development will need to make an approximately 5 feet deep cut into the existing road grade, thus requiring a retaining wall of at least equal height and a catch basin to control water. Water flow under the proposed road will be allowed by two 42-inch culverts which should be sufficient to handle a projected 100-year storm. Water will then flow into the existing watercourse. About 350 square feet of wetlands will be disturbed by this construction.

During and after Mr. Hrica's presentation Agency members expressed a variety of concerns, including unhappiness with the fact that Agency members had not been provided sufficient time to review a rather large set of materials. The Agency's attorney, Michael Zizka, indicated that a revised proposal should be careful to discuss the benefits of disturbing the wetlands, whether there is a viable alternative to the proposed disruption, that a final, complete written proposal, not just a series of revisions to the original proposal was needed, and that it might be best to just withdraw the current proposal and submit a new one.

After extensive discussion, Agency members agreed on the need for the following additional information/materials before a decision could be made:

- (1) A final complete written proposal should be submitted to the Agency well in advance of the next meeting.
- (2) A new wetlands environmental assessment by a wetlands scientist should be conducted and the resulting report submitted to the Agency. The previous report, done in 2004, only covered surface issues. Agency members expressed the need for deeper soil analysis of potential environmental hazards, especially since much of the site used to be an industrial area. Areas of particular concern were those near projected homes and catch basins. Kate Johnson promised to send the previous report to IWO Halloran.
- (3) A letter from state authorities requiring a Town Road in order to fund the project should be submitted to the Agency.
- (4) A letter from Todd Parsons, Principal Engineer from Lenard Engineering, evaluating his concerns should be submitted to the Agency.
- (5) Cross-sections of the proposed road development, with a focus on wetlands concerns, should be submitted to the Agency. Mr. Mead will provide the applicants with specific areas of Agency concern.

During the Public Comment period, Susan MacEachron asked if the proposed Town Road will be relatively expensive to maintain? First Selectman Matt Riiska replied "no," and in fact the proposed road is better than many in Norfolk.

In the end, Mr. Meade asked Kate Johnson for a continuance of the application for 21 days so that the required materials could be submitted to and evaluated by the Agency. Ms. Johnson agreed to the request, and indicated the Foundation would consider withdrawing the existing proposal and re-submitting a new proposal.

Mr. Tucker moved, and Mr. Webb seconded, a motion to continue the public hearing on August 2, 2021. The motion was approved unanimously.

7. New Business – None
8. WEO Report -- None
9. Communications and Bills – None discussed
10. Adjournment – 8:43 pm

Respectfully submitted – Myron L. Kwast