

Town of Norfolk
Inland Wetlands Agency
Town Hall
Regular Meeting
January 8, 2024 @ 7:00 p.m.
Draft Minutes

Present: Hartley Mead-Chair, Myron Kwast, Rich Kessin, Jill Chase, Clint Webb, alt. Marinell Crippen recording secretary.

Also Present: IWO Michael Halloran

1. **Call to Order**-7:00 pm
2. **Roll Call**-Clint Webb will sit for Byron Tucker.
3. **Agenda Review**-add brief discussion about City Meadow after 6C.
4. **Approval of Minutes**-Myron Kwast made a motion to approve minutes as amended, seconded by Jill Chase, and approved unanimously.
5. **Public Comment**-none
6. **New Business**
 - A. **Application withdrawn, Public Hearing 7:15 pm, #23-029 Michael Karbelnikoff 315 Ashpohtag Road, work in a regulated wetlands area. New tennis courts and driveway extension.**

Michael Halloran sent Mr. Karbelnikoff a letter since he has been in violation for parking cars for the Mountainside employees next door there and Halloran also sent an email stating that Karbelnikoff could not have an accessory use without a principal structure on it.
 - B. **23-030 application for subdivision at 305 Mountain Road Allied Engineering Associates for Carlene Laughlin.**

George Johannesen reviewed what he had gone over last month at the Wetlands meeting, see minutes from December meeting. Mr. Johannesen has a service request in for Aquarian to produce a letter for the Agency stating that they are on town water. Last month Hartley Mead asked for a copy of the forestry study that Dave Beers had done which was to make sure they protect specimen trees and preserve the quality of the forest for the future. Mr. Johannesen had supplied that to the Agency before the meeting. Mr. Halloran said that this is like the approval the Agency gave several months ago to Don Tarrant. Myron Kwast made a motion to approve application #23-030 for subdivision at 305 Mountain with the regular conditions, seconded by Clint Webb and approved unanimously.

C. 23-033 application for work in the upland review at 220 Mountain Road by owners Alexander and Katie Shields Thomson.

There was no representative for the Thomsons' so #23-033 was skipped to address City Meadow.

D. City Meadow discussion

Matt Riiska was present to address questions about the City Meadow restoration project. Mr. Halloran stated that he got a call from Michael Nadeau, wholistic land care consultant, who is overseeing the City Meadow project, the native habitat restoration. The group had a meeting several weeks ago at the hub and today they called Mr. Halloran and asked if they could present something this evening and Mr. Nadeau sent a narrative for the restoration project and asked Mr. Halloran to review it. Mr. Halloran told Mr. Nadeau that as soon as the Agency receives the application, the Wetlands Agency will review it. Mr. Halloran said that they want to dig a new brook and put 5-forebays in it. They want to change what Wetlands had approved in 2016. Mr. Nadeau wanted to know what he needed for an application and Mr. Halloran asked him to send him what they would be doing.

Matt Riiska said that where the two culverts come out under the new decking, Mike Nadeau and Matt from Matt's landscaping in Falls Village suggested to bring in stone and redo the outflow from the two culverts and go to the forebays, which would clean out the water from the street. The City Meadow group had wanted to put in something similar to this in 2012 and the Army Corp of Engineers (ACOE) rejected it but later the ACOE approved what is there now. Discussion ensued.

Mr. Halloran wrote to Mr. Nadeau that they need a plan showing everything as well as a maintenance program including who will maintain and clean out the forebays every couple of years, and it will be put on the agenda for next month if Mr. Halloran receives the asked for paperwork. Matt Riiska said that a few of the items the group will be working on are 1) Control of the phragmite and the non-native cattails, which was discussed with an outside company Jess Toro of Native Habitat Restoration from Stockbridge. Also, which herbicides she will be using and how they will be applied. Riiska suggested they attend the meeting and explain their process. 2) Hydrological reconstruction coming out of the culverts and the dredging of the forebay and the removal of any invasives 3) The gravel path will be remediated, resurfaced, and a series of plantings and an approval will need to be gained from Ben Shiff and Norfolk Foundation because they will be moving equipment over some of their land. 4) There will be tree cutting and removal and Riiska suggested using Chris Toomey because he has a track vehicle, and it would be easier using that in the wetlands area. Clint Webb suggested that they offer different solutions as well. The intent of this project is to make City Meadow a pleasant looking place. Molly Ackerly said that over the course of 3 to 5 years native vegetation should take over the phragmites and she asked if they could start cutting phragmites and cattails

before they get a permit. Michael Halloran said that yes, they could go in and work without equipment. Mr. Halloran said they should also get a letter from Norfolk Conservation Commission to approve the plantings suggested.

C. 23-033 application for work in the upland review at 220 Mountain Road by Owners Alexander & Katie Shields Thomson.

They are rebuilding tennis courts and putting up a pool house and while none of this is in Wetlands, it is all uphill and the reason Mr. Halloran did not approve on his own is because there is a steep grade from this project to the wetlands.

The agency would like a representative so the agency can ask questions for the February meeting.

7. **Old Business**-Hartley Mead wondered why Dave Beers had no ash trees represented in his report.
8. **WEO Report**-In 2023 Mr. Halloran had 33 permits and emphasized 23 was the most ever before this year.
9. **Communications and Bills**-
Mr. Halloran read a letter from Northwest Conservation District, and the Agency decided they would like to continue membership.
A replacement for Michael Halloran has not been found yet.
10. **Adjournment**-Myron Kwast made a motion to adjourn at 8:20 pm, seconded by Rich Kessin and approved unanimously.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Marinell Crippen". The signature is stylized with a large, looped "M" and a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Respectfully submitted,
Marinell Crippen, Secretary