

**CONSERVATION COMMISSION
INLAND/WETLANDS AGENCY
EAST GRANBY, CONNECTICUT
July 17, 2019 Minutes**

A meeting of the East Granby Inland Wetland/Conservation Commission was held on Wednesday, July 17, 2019. Members present when Acting Chairman Daniel Methot called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. were John Rusnock, Michael Malloy, John Febbrioriello, and Russell Houghton with alternates Jennifer Frank and Trish Rondeau.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Earthlight Technologies/Galasso #19-02 – Upland Review

Solar Farm @ 60 South Main Street (rec'd 7/17/19) (d/d 8/07/19)

Craig Timson, general manager for the project, discussed what progress has been made, what monitoring has been done and how the wetlands have been protected since the company last appeared before the Commission. Testing and monitoring are ongoing and they are in compliance with all permits. A new crushing facility has been built and the old black top facilities have been replaced. All are “state of the art” for better operations and clean air compliance.

With the newer facilities, the stockpile areas are no longer necessary. This area is now an open field and a good location for the solar farm. Creamery Brook abuts the location. There is a stone berm which works well to protect the wetland area. This is regularly tested and monitored. He explained that 2 more utility poles would be needed. Within the upland review, 2 rods for the ground mounted panels will be installed and an 18” deep trench about 400 foot long will be dug for the conduit. Once the conduit is placed, the trench will be filled back in. The disturbance is temporary and minimal. The Planning & Zoning Commission has already approved the solar farm with the condition that IWC approval is received.

Mr. Haynes had stated in his report dated 7/08/19 that the installation was 75 feet away from the wetlands and was already disturbed from the stockpiles. The impact was minimal.

The Commission had many questions regarding the generation of heat from the panels, future contingency plans if operations ceased, how the rods were installed, and if noise was a factor. Mr. Timson stated that the farm would generate 100% of their electricity during the winter months and about 1/3 of their needs during the summer.

A motion was made by Michael Malloy and seconded by John Rusnock to approve Application #CC19-02 by Earthlight Technologies on behalf of Galasso Materials for a solar farm at 60 South Main Street as presented. Votes in favor were unanimous. Motion carried.

MINUTES

A motion was made by John Rusnock and seconded by John Febbriello to approve the minutes of 4/03/19 as submitted. The votes in favor were unanimous. Motion carried. (Michael Malloy did not vote as he was not present at the meeting.)

COMMUNICATIONS

The Commission received:

MAY

- Farmington River News
- Administrative Approvals for 3 Copper Hill Terrace for an in-ground pool & 21 Heather Lane for a shed
- CT Wildlife
- PZC Minutes for 4/25/19

JUNE

- PZC Minutes for 5/14/19
- Habitat

JULY

- PZC Minutes for 6/25/19
- Wild & Scenic Annual Report
- Application #CC19-02 by Earthlight Technologies/Galasso for an upland review for a solar farm at 60 South Main Street
- Staff report for Application #CC19-02
- PZC Minutes for 7/09/19
- CT Wildlife

Mr. Haynes reviewed the administrative approvals for the Commission.

OLD BUSINESS

A. Wetlands Enforcement Report – Mr. Haynes discussed the status of the Pride project. Updated engineered plans have been received. The junk material has been removed and the silt fence re-established. The retaining wall permit has not yet been issued as the Town Engineer is still awaiting some further data. Cumberland Farms is in the process of working with the DOT and the barns are currently being removed at the site.

B. Director of Community Development Report

- a.) Administrative Approvals:
- 3 Copper Hill Terrace/in-ground pool
 - 21 Heather Lane/shed

These were explained during “Communications”.

b.) Wild & Scenic Annual Report

With this designation, there will be an operating committee established (with membership from each Town) whose main purpose would be grant applications. As more info is available, Mr. Haynes will pass on the information.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by John Rusnock and seconded by John Febbriello to adjourn the meeting at 7:57 p.m. Votes in favor were unanimous. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosalie McKenney
Land Use Administrative Assistant