

**CONSERVATION COMMISSION
INLAND WETLANDS AGENCY
EAST GRANBY, CONNECTICUT
February 2, 2022 Minutes**

A meeting of the East Granby Inland Wetlands Agency/Conservation Commission was held on Wednesday, February 2, 2022. Members present when Chairman George Cornelius called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM were Daniel Methot, Jennifer Frank, Michael Malloy and Alternates Lisa Griffin and David Tobin. Trish Rondeau arrived at 7:02 PM.

PRESENTATION TO THE COMMISSION

A. WMC Engineers – Floydville Bridge Scour

Tom Grimaldi, Town Engineer, noted that engineering for the Floydville Bridge Project was produced by WMC Consulting Engineers. At this time, the engineering is complete and is awaiting approval by the Army Corps of Engineers. Trish Rondeau arrived at 7:02 PM.

Bob Barneschi with WMC Engineers introduced himself and reviewed drawings for the scour remediation of the eastern abutment of the bridge. The scour mitigation plan includes filling the voids under the abutment with self-consolidating concrete, which will flow into those areas and make the abutment more stable. It involves basic form work after the edge of the brook has been cofferdammed off. The cofferdam and turbidity curtain will be installed along the eastern edge of the brook. Access to the area for construction vehicles will involve cutting through the existing old fieldstone/concrete wall, which currently serves no purpose other than maintaining a bit of the embankment. The accessway will consist of processed gravel during construction and will be covered with topsoil and seeded post-construction, which will create a natural walkway to the brook for fishing or future maintenance.

Mr. Barneschi commented that DEEP's Natural Diversity Data Base has been reviewed and identified three species of special concern: the eastern pearlshell, wood turtle, and slimy sculpin. Cofferdamming will prevent the fish from coming into the work area. If turtles are observed, the typical procedure is to place them back over the silt fence in their natural habitat. A consultant hired to survey the area identified 59 individual eastern pearlshells and relocated each one 200 meters upstream of the project. There will be no need to relocate them after construction is complete.

Mr. Barneschi confirmed that plans were submitted to the Army Corps of Engineers at the end of November/beginning of December and are currently awaiting their approval.

Mr. Barneschi then took questions from Commission members. Mr. Grimaldi requested he show a cross section of the cofferdam and turbidity curtain. The temporary sandbag cofferdam will be placed with an excavator arm and lowered into the water. When in place, they are wrapped to further keep water from migrating into the work area. Outside of the sandbags, the turbidity curtain is placed for an added measure of protection against

sediments entering the brook. Mr. Grimaldi further requested the location of the pump settling basin be shown, as well as a detail of the pump intake and settling basin. Details and a cross section were shown that illustrated the different possibilities available for the settling area. The construction inspector will work with the contractor to determine the best method and location for it in the field. Options include the use of a silt bag or a basin area surrounded by silt fence with a riprap filtering berm.

There is a weir across the brook just upstream of the bridge. Some stream boulders will be relocated and used in the project. WMC is working with Park Services to be sure they are using natural, rounded riprap that is locally sourced to meet their requirements.

Mr. Grimaldi asked if approval has been granted from DEEP Fisheries. Mr. Barneschi stated that their signoff was received back in May. He mentioned there were a couple of improvements they would like to see in terms of providing fish habitat, including live planting where feasible. Live plantings will not slow down the water enough to prevent the erosion that has been occurring, however; therefore riprap will be placed over the self-consolidating concrete under the abutment.

Mr. Grimaldi asked if the weir will remain in place. Mr. Barneschi confirmed that it would and that some of those natural rocks from the brook will be used as the “shell” of the riprap layer.

Trish Rondeau asked if any slurry would be created when the cement wall was cut. Mr. Barneschi stated that saw cutting of the concrete would create some, but the silt fence and hay bales will be put into place prior to cutting the wall.

Jennifer Frank expressed concern about the turtles in the area and asked if an independent biologist would be needed on site to keep track of them versus depending on the construction personnel to clear them from the silt fence area. Mr. Barneschi mentioned that the Town can pursue having a biologist on hand, but that the workers will be educated and aware of how to handle any turtles that may enter the area.

Michael Malloy asked for the anticipated length of the project. Mr. Barneschi answered that its duration should be about two months. The bulk of the time will be spent setting up the erosion controls. The actual forming and filling of the concrete is typically done in a day or two. Clean up is usually a week or two. The project could be completed in about 30-45 days, but 60 days is more realistic to give the contractor adequate time to allow for submittal times and shop drawing reviews. The project will be done during low flow in summer. Mr. Malloy also asked for clarification as to the scour being caused by the existing weir. Mr. Barneschi confirmed that the weir is creating the larger scour hole upstream of the bridge, and mentioned that it is a matter of balancing the fish habitat at the brook’s edge and allowing the water to have natural velocities. A greater flow area will reduce the velocities and reduce the potential of the scour hole getting worse.

George Cornelius inquired as to when the bridge will be reinspected by the State. Mr. Grimaldi stated that CTDOT comes out once a year, typically in June. Mr. Grimaldi then

asked if the State inspectors will inspect the self-consolidating concrete prior to the placement of the riprap. Mr. Barneschi noted he assumes that once the contractor has the area dried out, the State might come to view the exact area that has been scoured. The inspection team will be in communication with CTDOT.

MINUTES

George Cornelius noted that an uppercase “W” in the first paragraph under New Business in the minutes of the 01/05/2022 should be lowercase. A motion was made by Daniel Methot and seconded by Michael Malloy to approve the minutes of 01/05/2022 as submitted. Votes in favor were unanimous. Motion carried.

COMMUNICATIONS

The Commission received:

- PZC Minutes for the 01/11/2022 meeting.
- E-mail dated 02/01/2022 requesting the extension of CC#21-04 (10 Connecticut South Drive) to March 2nd.

OLD BUSINESS

- A. Director of Community Development
 - a) Application Acceptance – Nothing to report.
 - b) Wetlands Enforcement Report – Nothing to report.
 - c) Administrative Approvals – Nothing to report.
 - d) Other Business – Nothing to report.

NEW BUSINESS

- A. Harp Realty (CC#21-04) 10 Connecticut South Drive/upland review (rec'd 12/01/2021) (con't to 02/02/2022) (d/d 02/02/2022)

A request for an extension to 03/02/2022 has been received and accepted.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Daniel Methot and seconded by Michael Malloy to adjourn the meeting at 7:33 PM. Votes in favor were unanimous. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Laura Hall
Land Use Administrative Assistant