

**GLASTONBURY CONSERVATION COMMISSION
(INLAND WETLANDS & WATERCOURSES AGENCY)
MEETING MINUTES of THURSDAY, May 26, 2022**

The Glastonbury Conservation Commission (Inlands Wetlands & Watercourses Agency), along with Ms. Suzanne Simone, Environmental Planner, in attendance held a Meeting via ZOOM video conferencing.

ROLL CALL

Commission Members-Present

Frank Kaputa, Chairman
Mark Temple, Vice-Chairman
Kim McClain, Secretary
Brian Davis
Anna Gault Galjan

Commission Members - Excused

James Parry
William Shea

The Chairman welcomed new Commissioner, Ms. Anna Gault Galjan.

Chairman Kaputa called the meeting to order at 6:30 P.M. and explained the public meeting process to the applicants and members of the public.

I. FORMAL ACTIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1. Recommendation to the Town Plan & Zoning Commission concerning a CGS Section 8-30g application for the construction of an apartment building containing 74 units, with parking and other site improvements – 1199 Manchester Road - Planned Business & Development Zone and Rural Residence Zone – Attorneys Timothy Hollister & Andrea Gomes – Wes Wentworth, P.E. – Alan Lamson, AIA AICP – Manchester/Hebron Avenue, LLC, applicant - CONTINUED TO JUNE 16, 2022**
- 2. Application of the Town of Glastonbury for an inland wetlands and watercourses permit concerning storm drainage improvements to replace a failing stone culvert – 11 Ash Swamp Road – Rural Residence Zone – Daniel A. Pennington, Town Engineer/Manager of Physical Services, applicant**

Mr. Stephen Braun, Assistant Town Engineer, reviewed the proposed work. The wetlands area was marked in light blue, the existing drainage system was marked in orange, and the proposed work was marked in purple on the plan. Mr. Braun said that the stone culvert is failing in the area around 11 Ash Swamp Road. He explained that he was contacted by the property owner of #11, Mr. Jeffrey Brodersen, regarding flooding and the failed culvert. Mr. Braun explained that the proposal entails the installation of a new manhole at the end of the existing 15-inch HDPE

pipe in the area of the Weir Street intersection and the installation of approximately 290 feet of new 18-inch HDPE pipe which outlets to a new catch basin. Mr. Braun pointed out the existing cross culvert and noted that it will be replaced. Mr. Braun stated that the homeowner reported several significant flooding occurrences to his barn. Mr. Braun noted that the proposal will impact approximately 740 square feet of the intermittent watercourse and surrounding area. He explained that the proposed plans are designed to reduce the future risk of flooding.

Chairman Kaputa noted that former Commissioner, Helen Stern, lived in that house. The Chairman asked if the Town has considered just replacing the existing culvert. Mr. Braun explained that the grade is problematic and the inlet of the culvert is very likely to fail due to the accumulating debris. Chairman Kaputa remarked that the culvert existed for many years before failing. He added that Ms. Stern had not mentioned any issues. Mr. Braun stated that he does not know the history and added that there has been significant rainfall. He explained that Town staff have determined that the proposal is reasonable because the watercourse is intermittent. Mr. Braun said that the soil scientist outlined that the intermittent stream serves the function of transporting surface water. This function will continue when the length of the area is piped underground and connected to the existing piping. Mr. Braun remarked that Town staff would not present such a proposal if it were a perennial stream. He noted that the proposal is a reasonable solution that will prevent overflow.

Commissioner Davis remarked that the watercourse is where it is because of the road that was built. He stated that it does not look like a natural watercourse. Mr. Braun agreed and added that the watercourse evolved with the road. Mr. Braun said that it is similar to a roadside swale. Mr. Davis noted that the proposed site work should not cause runoff in the road. Mr. Braun replied correct and added that they are proposing a bit of curb to direct the water into a catch basin. Mr. Kaputa asked Mr. Braun to point out the catch basin. Mr. Braun stated that the catch basin will be on the eastern end, with bituminous curb proposed. A new catch basin in the road is proposed to receive water in the road. Mr. Davis remarked that he finds the proposal acceptable if the swale is manmade.

Vice-Chairman Temple asked Mr. Braun if the Town has considered improving the water quality at the west discharge end. Mr. Braun stated that he met with the property owner. The property owner had concerns regarding erosion and specified that he did not want the Town to do any work within his property. Mr. Braun stated that the Town does not have any formal rights to conduct work in that area. He explained that there is a plunge pool which is maintained by the property owners. Mr. Braun noted that they can approach the property owners again and find out if they will allow the Town to conduct any work near the outlet.

Mr. Temple stated that the project should not increase the peak flow. He asked Mr. Braun to reach out to the homeowner again. Mr. Temple asked about the size of the plunge pool. Mr. Braun responded that the plunge pool is big. He noted that the property owner located at #321 Weir Street has a shared agreement with another property owner regarding the maintenance of the plunge pool. Mr. Braun noted that a pretty good job was done with the stone work and berm. Mr. Temple asked if there was any sand or accumulation. Mr. Braun said that he did not notice any accumulation and added that the plunge pool appeared to be in pretty good shape. Mr.

Temple noted that it is very difficult to improve the swale. He explained that, if the swale was deepened with steeper sides, it would be subject to erosion. Mr. Temple asked if piping is the only avenue and added that, if that is the case, it will help the Commission make a positive decision. Mr. Braun explained that there is not enough room to do much with the swale in terms of water quality. He noted that there is very little margin as well as a potential for erosion. Mr. Braun stated that the proposal could improve sedimentation and would prevent erosion. Mr. Temple asked Mr. Braun to approach the downgradient property owner again to see if some sort of tradeoff can be made.

Secretary McClain agreed with the Vice-Chairman's points and asked how old the system is. Mr. Braun said that records indicate that the pipe has been there as long as the road. Ms. McClain inquired how long the system typically lasts. Mr. Braun questioned if she is referring to the old system or the proposed system. Ms. McClain remarked that it seems that the stormwater systems were designed for the 100-year storms, and now the storms are 500-year storms. She asked how many systems like the one near 11 Ash Swamp Road are in place. Mr. Braun explained that they are finding undersized pipes throughout the Town. He noted that the rainfall from last summer and fall were unprecedented, causing a number of systems to flood. Mr. Braun stated that this project is not about increasing the capacity, but addressing the failure of the stone culvert. He noted that the downhill property owner has expressed concerns about the flooding.

Chairman Kaputa asked if the piping would lead to decreased infiltration. Mr. Braun explained that the soil scientist noted that the water table is close to the surface and not much infiltration occurs. Several Commissioners asked Mr. Braun to detail how the system would intercept the sheet flow. Mr. Braun stated that they propose to fill in the ditch and explained that the bulk of the water is surface flow. The driver aprons will be replaced and new curbing will be put in. Mr. Braun explained that the water ended up at property #11 because there was no curbing or catch basin in place. Mr. Davis asked if there would be additional pavement. Mr. Braun replied that there would be 100 feet of pavement and suggested adding another catch basin. Mr. Kaputa asked Mr. Braun about the spacing of the catch basins. Mr. Braun explained that, typically, catch basins are spaced every 250-300 feet. He noted that the proposed catch basin would be about 300 feet.

Mr. Kaputa noted that the culvert has been functioning for well over 100 years. Mr. Braun explained that roadside swales carry debris, leaf litter, and sticks, which causes clogging and flooding. He stated that the Town is liable and added that there is a possibility that the homeowner can maintain and clear out the swale. Mr. Braun reiterated that the Town is liable and the proposal makes the most sense. Mr. Kaputa asked if a scope was used. Mr. Braun replied yes and added that the camera got stuck. Mr. Davis asked Mr. Braun to outline the sequence of the work. Mr. Braun explained that they would build offline first and then pull out the demolished part under the driveway. He explained that they do not want any sinkholes. The piping work would be done in steps and the road would be patched and plugged.

Mr. Davis asked Mr. Braun to provide a calculation or a justification for the catch basin at the end of the second driveway. Mr. Braun explained that they can add the catch basin because it is not a significant amount of work. He stated that Mr. Brodersen advocated for the catch basin to

ensure that water does not flood his driveway and property. Mr. Kaputa asked Mr. Braun if they are adding additional curb east of the driveway. Mr. Braun replied yes and stated that he will add it to the plans. Mr. Temple asked Mr. Braun to ensure that the flow is not increased and will not impact the downgradient property owner. Mr. Braun responded yes and added that he and Ms. Simone will go out there and discuss the outlined recommendations with the property owners.

3. Application of Jose Negron for an inland wetlands and watercourses permit to cross Salmon Brook for connection to public sanitary sewer – 39 Stanley Drive – Rural Residence Zone

Mr. Brian Stepule of Stepule Builders, Inc., represented the property owner. He explained that he has done a similar project near the proposed site. Mr. Stepule stated that he was at the site a month ago and the brook was about 2-3 feet wide. He noted that the septic system is failing, adding that the neighboring property had a similar situation. Mr. Stepule stated that he proposes to put in a section of ductal iron to avoid erosion issues. He explained that the crossing area will be about 3 feet deep and added that the disturbance area is pretty small. Mr. Stepule explained that the bank is vegetated, solid, and not marshy. The soil conditions are sandy. Mr. Stepule noted that the area is about 50 or 60 feet away from last project. He explained that they will be in the area of the stream for less than an hour and will utilize hay bales which will remain until the vegetation is restored. Mr. Stepule stated that he submitted the plans with written notes.

Mr. Kaputa stated that the Commission has received copies of the plans. Mr. Stepule explained that this proposal is a carbon copy of the work done at the nearby property. He noted that Mr. Mocko watched the process and was happy with the results. Mr. Stepule said that they plan to work expeditiously to keep disturbances down. He explained that they will begin the process away from the brook. He noted that the sewer lateral connection point is approximately 5.5 feet deep. Mr. Stepule added that no large trees would be removed. Mr. Temple asked how deep the 6-inch pipe would be placed. Mr. Stepule replied the pipe would be placed around 5.5 feet into the ground and will include an installation of ductal iron to prevent erosion. Mr. Temple asked how deep the watercourse is. Mr. Stepule responded that, last month, it was about 1.5 feet deep. Mr. Temple remarked that it would be problematic for the ductal iron to be exposed. He asked if there was trouble locating the lateral. Mr. Stepule replied that it was easy to find and noted that they would excavate the area carefully. Mr. Temple noted that the project is in the upland review area and asked Mr. Stepule to identify everything before digging. Mr. Stepule responded that everything will be identified prior to digging and he will backfill as he works to minimize the diversion of water.

Mr. Temple asked the applicant to detail the plans for the seeding process. Mr. Stepule explained that he will put in a rye grass as well as straw bales to ensure the area re-establishes. Mr. Stepule explained that, once a septic system fails, the property owners are obligated to tie into the system. Mr. Kaputa asked about the slope. Mr. Stepule stated that it is a higher area and they will ensure that no back flow occurs. He reiterated that everything will be prepared ahead of time. The Commission asked Mr. Stepule to add vegetation and seeding to the plans. The

Commission also asked Mr. Stepule to install the ductal iron deeper than the proposed +/- 3 feet that was submitted in the plans to prevent erosion.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - Regular Meeting of May 12, 2022

Mr. Davis indicated that on Page 5, paragraph 2, 4th line, adding solar panels to the parking lot was Secretary McClain's suggestion. Ms. McClain noted that she suggested solar canopies. The Commissioners agreed to the change the sentence to reflect Secretary McClain's suggestion of adding solar canopies to the parking area.

Mr. Kaputa directed the Commission to page 4, middle of the 1st paragraph, the sentence reads "Chairman Kaputa asked the applicants to address the Town Engineer's comments and noted that the comment about benching ties into a maintenance plan." The Chairman explained that his comments about a maintenance plan were regarding Commissioner Shea's comments about the water storage basin/chamber getting clogged. The Commission agreed to keep the first part of the sentence and remove the second part of the sentence from the minutes.

Mr. Kaputa directed the Commission to page 5, 4th paragraph, the sentence reads, "Chairman Kaputa asked if a backup system was in place in case of a power outage." The Chairman explained that his question was about extreme cold. He noted that the question is not a conservation concern and suggested to remove it from the minutes. The Commissioners agreed to the change.

Chairman Kaputa directed the Commission to Page 7, the Chairman's Report section. The Chairman explained that he said he would probably recuse himself. The Commissioners agreed to add the word "probably" to the minutes.

Approval of the minutes was tabled to the next meeting.

III. COMMENTS BY CITIZENS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS – NONE

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

1. Chairman's Report - NONE

2. Environmental Planner's Report

Ms. Simone updated the Commission on the violation that was discussed at the last meeting. She noted that she spoke to the property owners, and the next steps include the implementation of a planting plan.

Ms. Simone notified the Commissioners that she received complaints about violations in Town easement areas. She noted that more information will be provided later. Mr. Temple asked how the Town finds out about these violations. Ms. Simone explained that the reports come from the public and explained that one incident was reported by an anonymous caller.

Ms. McClain remarked that utility companies have a campaign “call before you dig”. She suggested the Commission implement the campaign “call before you cut.” This notice can be advertised in local papers and in other ways. Ms. Simone informed the Commission that she receives more calls from prospective homeowners or property owners regarding conservation easement questions than calls regarding violations. Several Commissioners remarked that it is good to hear. Mr. Kaputa remarked that his family’s house backs onto a conservation easement. He noted that a conservation easement ensures that the area is preserved and the woods will not be cut and turned into a lawn or development. The Chairman stated that it is very important for conservation easements to be maintained.

Mr. Kaputa asked Ms. Anna Gault Galjan to introduce herself. Ms. Gault Galjan stated that she is a geologist and has 20 years of experience in environmental work. She noted that she is a grant writer. She explained that some of her grants include small projects like a pollinator garden for schools and large remediation projects for coastal areas. Ms. Gault Galjan remarked that she has a lot of love for inland wetlands and is here to offer her services. The Commissioners welcomed Ms. Gault Galjan.

With no other business to discuss, Chairman Kaputa adjourned the meeting at 7:38 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Nadya Yuskaev

Nadya Yuskaev
Recording Secretary