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Description automatically generatedHARTLAND INLAND WETLANDS COMMISSION**

**22 South Road, East Hartland, CT 06027**

**Public Hearing Meeting Minutes**

**Wednesday ~ November 13, 2024, 2024 ~ 7:00 P.M.**

Commission Members: Chair Enos (Steve) Stevens, Vice Chair Chuck Constable, Kim Burkhart, Margaret (Peggy) Kawa, and Brian Kershaw

Absent: Jordan Branem and Tom Daukas

Others in Attendance: Wetlands Enforcement Officer Scott Eisenlohr, Attorney Perley Grimes, Paul Ringiewicz, Brian Cunningham, Christine Aloma, Donald Benedetto, Bryce Zygmont, Mark Telford, Terrence Provost, Debra Provost, Frank Kawa, Ellen G. Smith, and Fletcher Smith

Chair Stevens called the Hartland Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Public Hearing on Wednesday, November 13, 2024 to order at 7:05 pm. Attending residents of Hartland signed in prior to the hearing being called to order and are listed under Others in Attendance, above. WEO Scott Eisenlohr gave all Commission members in attendance a copy of a document from the town attorney, Cohn, Birnbaum, Shea, regarding FOI Requirements Concerning Public Meetings and Bias/Conflict of Interest. Commission members present read the document. Chair Stevens read the list of established rules for public comment and appointed Recording Secretary Irwin as timekeeper. Speakers were asked to introduce themselves along with their address, limited to 5 minutes of speaking time, profanity was not allowed, and speakers would be called in order they had signed in. Chair Stevens introduced himself, had all Commission members listed in attendance introduce themselves, and Wetlands Enforcement Officer Scott Eisenlohr introduced himself. The Public Notice for this hearing was placed in the Republican American newspaper, the Hartford Courant, posted on the Hartland Gazette on Facebook, and on the property (196 Riverton Road).

Attorney Grimes approached the Commission and presented a document regarding a conflict of interest letter asking that the abutting property owner, Margaret (Peggy) Kawa recuse herself from voting on this application. Ms. Kawa recused herself earlier today.

The deed and map were given for the file, to Commission members present, and return receipt notices given to place in the file for letters sent to abutting property owners from Mr. Cunningham. He stated that there are four wetland areas that will be crossed by the installation of the driveway. Watershed information, Appendix A, shows the four areas as intermittent water courses. The driveway will be 12 feet wide and have gravel and aggregate compacted in the construction. The house will be in the upper hand corner of the property and over 100 yards from wetlands.

Mr. Telford spoke and recommended the site work to Mr. Ringiewicz prior to his purchasing the property.

Mr. Provost stated that he feels a watercourse cannot be changed. Mr. Cunningham showed Mr. Provost a map of where the water is expected to flow on the steep part of the proposed driveway.

Ms. Provost stated that there was a violation when the wetlands were impacted when the perk tests were performed. The Commission confirmed that the violation was rectified. Ms. Provost asked that the Commission consider having a surety bond.

Mr. Zygmont stated he has been on the property several times. Mr. Zygmont and Mr. Smith will be completing the work on the property and will ensure that their work will protect the watercourses.

Mr. Kawa presented a topographical map of watercourses and stated that there are wetlands that are not intermittent on Mr. Ringiewicz’s property. He feels that the pipes currently proposed should be larger in diameter. Mr. Cunningham stated that plunge pools are proposed at the top of the driveway to help with water runoff.

Mr. Provost asked that an attorney be hired due to conflict with wetland impact.

Attorney Grimes feels that a continuance is not necessarily due to the subdivision having two other lots and asked that the Commission approve the submitted application. The driveway work is expected to begin in the spring of 2025. There was additional discussion about an Erosion & Sedimentation Bond. Trees and stumps will be discussed with the contractor at a later date.

Chair Stevens made a motion to adjourn the Public Hearing. Vice Chair Constable seconded and the Public Hearing was adjourned at 8:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Connie Irwin

Wetlands Recording Secretary

cc: Commission Members

First Selectman – Magi Winslow

Wetlands Enforcement Officer – Scott Eisenlohr

Hartland Town Clerk – Therese Gundersen

File