

IWC Members:
Martha Dumas
Maureen O'Doherty
Jeff Flynn
Brian Anzellotti
Nancy Brault
Margaret Keser
Jim Sipperly, Inland Wetlands Agent
Jade Richardson, Clerk

PORTLAND INLAND WETLANDS COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
Tuesday, June 4, 2024 7:00 p.m.
20 Freestone Ave, Portland, CT.
Mary Flood Room

Present: Maureen O'Doherty, Jeff Flynn, Martha Dumas
Margret Keser (Alternate)

Absent: Brian Anzellotti, Nancy Brault, Jim Sipperly

1. Call Meeting to Order

Martha Dumas called the meeting to order at 7:01pm

2. Introduction of Members and Seating of Alternates

The Commission members introduced themselves.

3. Accept Agenda

Margret Keser made a motion to accept the agenda, seconded by Maureen O' Doherty, all in favor, motion carried.

4. Approval of Minutes: 4/2/2024

Members of the Commission tabled the Meeting Minutes from April 2, 2024 until the next Meeting July 2, 2024. Martha Dumas asked to amend the May 7, 2024 Meeting minutes, with the correct spelling of Nancy Brault name.

Regular Meeting

5. **New Business: None**

6. **Old Business:**

- Complaint regarding discharge of muddy water into Great Hill Pond
- Martha Dumas, received a voicemail from Jim Sipperly earlier that day stating progress had been made on Mr. Solokoff's property. The grass, shrubs and other plants have made improvement. Mr. Dan Bourret and John Guskowski visited Mr. St. Peter's property last month, it was determined the water on Mr. St. Peter's property, was groundwater and not coming from Mr. Solokoff's property.
- Michael St. Peter, of 59 Lake Road, reiterated the water from Mr. Solokoff's property was still going in the wrong direction despite it being clearer. Mr. St. Peter wanted the complaints he filed that day (June 4, 2024) to be entered into record. The town of Portland was not enforcing Buffer Easement Violation on Mr. Solokoff's property. In addition, two emails, provided by Mr. St. Peter were also entered into record; First email, addressed from Jeff Jacobson dated March 20, 2019 to Lincoln White discussing the excessive water on Mr. St. Peter's backyard coming from Mr. Solokoff's property. Jim Sipperly was CC on that email. Second email, addressed from Jeff Jacobson to Liz Tripp CC Jim Sipperly and Ashley Majorowski on February 20/23 2018 discussing concerns surface runoff Mr. Solokoff's property is carefully monitored towards any existing Dow gradient house prior to construction.
- Maureen O'Doherty stated she will get back to Mr St. Peter no later than next Tuesday, after she has read the regulations from the PNZ commission. She wants to clarify PNZ protocols and steps are being followed after filing a complaint with the PNZ commission.
- Leslie Steffman, of 60 Lake Road, told the commission the grass seed and fertilizer that Mr. Solokoff used on his property "blew out" with the last rainstorm, into the lake a few weeks ago. Mrs. Steffman suggested taking photos with her drone and emailing those images to the Land Use dept, so that the InlandWetlands commission could review them.
- Richard Benson, of 122 Great Hill Pond Road, informed the commission, he read the PNZ regulations and informed the commission the reason why the regulations were in place, regarding the Buffer Zone it was to protect the other properties around Mr. Solokoff's property. Mr. Benson is taken by PNZ commission and how there was no follow-up with Mr. Sokoloff's neighbors on an adequacy plan restoring the Buffer zone. Also, Mr. Benson wanted to clarify a comment Mr. Sipperly made in the previous meeting on May 7th 2024. "A Septic system was recently installed, they have the seeds to regrade the area. However, there is a seepage on Mr. Sokoloff property to unidentified neighbor's property." Mr. Benson spoke to the installer, and he informed Mr. Benson, when they first were running a new pipe from the Septic tank to the new (unable to understand audio) Water was visible underneath the pipe, which was clear groundwater. It was not near where the (unable to understand audio) was previously. Therefore, what is moving into Mr. Sokoloff's driving through is clear groundwater.
- Jim Steffman, of 60 Lake Road, expressed concerns why the commission is not receiving photos residents submitted to the Town so that the committee can review it. He also reiterated, Mr. Solokoff should have been instructed to hire a contractor instead of doing the work himself, which is currently a mess.

7. Reports of Officers, Staff, and Committees:

Updates and Discussion Regarding Wetlands Violations and Agent Approvals: **None**

8. Public Comment and General Questions

The Commission will hear brief comments at this time from anyone wishing to speak. Comments may not be made regarding any pending application. The Committee heard from Richard Benson, Michael St. Peter, Jim Steffman, and Leslie Steffman, (Please refer to section "Old Business" for complete dialogue)

9. Correspondence: None

10. Adjourn

Maureen O' Doherty made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Jeff Flynn
All voted Unanimously. Meeting was adjourned at 8:02pm

Respectfully submitted by

Jade Richardson