

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, May 7, 2024 7:00 p.m.  
**20 Freestone Ave, Portland, CT.**  
**Mary Flood Room**

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

**Absent:** Brian Anzellotti

**Other Present:** Jim Sipperly, Inland Wetlands Agent

**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**

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

**4. Approval of Minutes: 4/2/2024**

Members of the Commission tabled the Meeting Minutes for April 2, 2024 until the next Meeting June 4th 2024.

**Regular Meeting**

**5. New Business: None**

**6. Old Business:**

- Complaint regarding discharge of muddy water into Great Hill Pond
- Jim Sipperly provided an update on Mr. Sokoloff property. Mr. Sokoloff lay sod along the entire border/lower end on his property line as instructed. He also planted the Arborvitae trees, John Guskowski inspected the trees and will monitor its growth. In some areas where there is no sod Mr. Sokoloff placed heavy grass seed and a lot of mulch hay over it. Yet, there are a few areas that are saturated due to water coming through his property. There is also a flow coming from Lot 38 (from the East of the property) that has a septic problem. 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. The water is going to a berm Mr. Sokoloff created. Mr. Sipperly provided an update on the sod Mr. Sokoloff has been using on his property. It's origin is from Hope Valley, Rhode Island from a farm named Jonathan Drake turf Farm. The top soil they receive is not Pollution/Contaminated, it's from a local farmer, who uses decomposed leaves, manure, and other organic additives, the soil also contains fertilizer, and crushed limestone to maintain its PH. Mr. Sipperly, took photos of Mr. Sokoloff property and will request InlandUse dept to post them online. Lastly, Mr.Sipperly informed everyone, Dan Bourret and John Guskowski planned to visit Mr.St. Peter on Monday May 13, 2024 to determine the source of the water entering Mr.St.Peter property.
- Jeff Flynn, recently spoke to Dan Bourret and the context of the discussion was the Zoning officer (John Guskowski) will not promote to restore a swale on Mr. Sokoloff property at this time. He would prefer, to wait and see on Mr. Sokoloff's labor and monitor any progress moving forward. Jeff also reminded everyone the conflict that involves the swale/berm falls under the Planning & Zoning commission jurisdiction. The Inland/Wetlands commission interjected when "Wetlands" was considered on the property.
- Leslie Steffman, of 60 Lake Road, asked the commission why Mr.Sokoloff can not restore the berm so the direction of the water can go north again.
- Unidentified neighbor asked Mr. Sipperly how long should the wait period/ expected to see results from Mr. Sokoloff labor. Mr.Sipperly reiterated that everyone needs to wait, in order to see the progress of the vegetation in the growing season and the process on Mr. Sokoloff property is being monitored.
- Michael St.Peter, of 59 Lake Road, showed an email that was sent to Dan Bourret from Mr. Sokoloff dated January 30th 2024 will be entered into record. The Context of the email was Mr. Sokoloff explained his plans to Dan regarding his property. Mr. St.Peter expressed his frustration five years ago, Mr.Sokoloff's house was being built, the water broke through the berm and entered his backyard.
- Jim Steffman, of 60 Lake Road, reiterated why the Swale could not be restored and the buffer area be planted again. The commission informed Mr. Steffman that matter was a Zoning issue, not a Wetland matter. To redirect his concerns to the Zoning Enforcement officer.
- Norm Ward, of 54 Lake Road, mentioned for as long as he could remember, there has always been water on Mr. St. Peter's property.
- Martha Dumas stated Jeff Flynn and Nancy Brualt intend to write a letter on behalf of the InLands/Wetland commission, addressed to the Planning & Zoning Commission. To formally acknowledge the issue of the swale/berm falls under their jurisdiction, yet the Inland/Wetlands

commission are inquiring about the swale/berm on Mr. Sokoloff property that has not yet been resolved.

**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 Norman Ward and Michael St. Peter, Jim Steffman, Leslie Steffman, (Please refer to section "Old Business" for complete dialogue)

**9. Correspondence:**

- Jim Sipperly received an application from Portland Boat works on the Connecticut River, in order to use pesticides/herbicides. Currently, they are experiencing Hydrilla weed near the harbor where the boats are being launched. The Application is being reviewed and is expected to receive a permit.
- Mr. Benson updated the commission, Natural Diversity DataBase Biologist at DEEP approved their application back in April 2024. The P&LC began treatment of CurlyLeaf Pondweed with contact of herbicide. The treatment is expected to eradicate most if not all of this year's growth. Signs were placed for the public's awareness at Great Hill Pond which included restrictions of drinking water (3 days) and irrigation (5days). No update for the second weed Fanwort treatment has yet been provided.

**10. Adjourn**

Nancy Brualt made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Jeff Flynn  
All voted Unanimously. Meeting was adjourned at 8:20pm

Respectfully submitted by

*Jade Richardson*