

INLAND WETLANDS & WATERCOURSES COMMISSION
TOWN OF VOLUNTOWN

February 5, 2015.

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 P.M. Members present were Chairman Tom Sweet, Eric Williams and Lester Davis. Wetlands Agent Joe Theroux was also present. Members absent: Dave Miner, John Moran and alternates Tammy Daigneault and Bob Panko.

The minutes from the November meeting could not be approved due to a lack of quorum. Tom was not present at the last meeting so therefore he could not vote to approve.

Old Business: Joe informed the board members that he had just gotten the preliminary plans for the 68 Bennett Circle project of James Lavoie. The problem seems to have been figured out for a solution to the drainage problems and when Joe looks them over and speaks with the Town Road Foreman, he will then give his approval to go ahead. The board agreed to look over the plans at the end of the meeting.

New Business: 129 Bennett Road. Bob Schuch from Schuch Engineering came before the board representing property owner Tom Witzel, who owns four properties on Bennett Rd. Mr. Witzel would like to put in 2 new septic systems with pump chambers, install 2 wells and install a curtain drain up gradient of the systems. Then pipe it down into a manhole to collect roof water off of the houses into the footing drains, and then continue to drain into a catch basin being installed in the road within the Town's right of way. It will be piped into a manhole in front of 129 Bennett Rd. and piped down prior to discharge into the pond. He indicated on the map where the regulated area was and stated that the permit would be for work in that area. Mr. Schuch showed the board on the plan, the pipe that runs down from Mr. Witzel's lot into a manhole which as the board could see the inlet is higher than the outlet and that is called a drop manhole. The water rushes down so fast and when it hits the drop manhole it stops the velocity of the runoff. The plan calls for sediment fence, staked hay bales and every fifty feet up there will be staked hay bales. At first Mr. Witzel wanted to tie in with the Town's drainage system but after talking with a neighbor he decided against it and he will create his own outlet. There is a soil scientist's report for all the properties, as is approval from Uncas Health District for both systems. There will be a 12 inch pipe crossing the street and a 12 inch going down. Mr. Witzel has talked to the Town Road Foreman and there didn't seem to be a problem with what he is doing. Even though it will be a private system, it will cross Town property and Lester asked about the liability. If it was a closed system it would take the liability away from the Town. Mr. Schuch will meet with the Road Foreman before the next meeting to see if the Town wants to go that way, plus it would environmentally better if it was a closed system. Vegetation will also be removed to put the pipe in and some trees will be cut down. After some discussion, Lester made a motion to accept the application of Tom Witzel, Eric seconded the motion, all were in favor.

Town of Voluntown/Solar Panels. Mr. Bob DeLuca from CLA Engineers, with a plan for the installation of ground mounted solar panels at the Voluntown Elementary School property. The Town, for the Board of Education has contracted with EnConn to put ground mounted solar panels in for the school. Mr. DeLuca showed the board the map pointing out the school property, the bus garage property and the property where the new Town garage will be built. They realized that a wetlands permit would be needed when they discovered the panels would encroach onto the Housing Authority property which is why the Town asked CLA Engineers to locate the property lines. They flagged part of the wetlands before the ground froze, and told the Town that the way they want the panels laid out, they were in the 100 foot buffer of

wetlands, and so they would need to go before the Wetlands Commission. Bob showed the board what the panels would look like, explaining that there has to have 22 feet spacing between the panels and they can't have more than a 5% grade. It looks like they are 12 to 36 inches off the ground at the lowest end and then tilted with spikes drilled into the ground to hold them up. The grading will be done about 40 to 50 feet away from the wetlands buffer. They are also thinking of creating a new property line, because of the Housing Authority property, to make the solar panels part of the school property. There are no details for ground cover on the plans but it will most likely be crushed stone with fabric underneath. There will be a new tree line since trees have to be cleared and some of the trees are on Housing Authority land. The plans will be revised to show the fence, ground cover, power cable and revised tree line. Joe asked if the Zoning Officer will have an issue with the array being on the property line. Bob stated that the ZEO already brought this up, and they need to maintain at least 10 feet from the property line and the line will be adjusted. Eric made a motion to remand the application to Joe for Agent approval, Lester seconded the motion, all in favor, motion carried.

Agent's Report: Joe showed the board a revised plan for Lavoie's septic system and tennis court drainage project. Joe hasn't given them the go ahead just yet. Joe met the Road Foreman at the site and talked about the whole plan and they discussed the fact that there should be a paved apron or some sort of curb to stop the water from going on the site and also discussed the grading adding to the water issue. Joe will meet with the Road Foreman again and see if they are abandoning the retaining wall. Either way, the wetlands impact isn't an issue. These revisions are pretty drastic and Joe will not approve unless he thinks everything is the way it should be.

Lester made a motion to adjourn, Eric seconded the motion, all in favor, motion carried. Meeting was adjourned at 8:53 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted:

Thomas Sweet, Chairman