

INLAND WETLANDS & WATERCOURSES COMMISSION  
TOWN OF VOLUNTOWN

August 6, 2015

The meeting was called to order at 7:40 p.m. Members present were Chairman Tom Sweet, Dave Miner, Lester Davis, Eric Williams and alternate Bob Panko. Wetlands Agent Joe Theroux was also present. Absent were John Moran and alternate Tammy Daigneault.

Audience: Selectman Tracey Hanson, Jim Crider, Road Foreman, Mike Sposato, William Buckley, Rodney McClaren, Elaine and George Grandolfi, Al Daigneault and Scott and Eileen Gibson.

The reading of the last month's minutes was tabled until the end of the meeting.

Old Business: Application 15-05, Pond Spillway reconstruction, Mr. Mike Sposato, 851 Pendleton Hill Road. Tom was not at last month's meeting so he looked over the application. As there was no further questions and the board did not foresee any problems, Eric made a motion to accept application 15-05, Dave seconded the motion, all in favor, so carried.

Application 15-06. Livingword Fellowship Church, grading, landscaping and drainage improvements. Joe reported that he talked to the engineer of the project and they have not heard back from DOT so this will be tabled until the next month's meeting.

New Business: None.

Correspondence: None.

Agents Report: Joe had nothing new to report, there were no violations, etc.

Commission Discussion: Bennett Road drainage issues. There were a number of residents present from Bennett Road to discuss the issues they are having with road drainage. Tom reported that he went up to take a look at the road. Mr. Buckley stated that he and Al Dawley looked at the catch basin on the road, which is a private road that Mr. Buckley owns, and they observed it was filled with silt and straw. The water was not routed to the catch basin because it was full and then proceeded down the road and drained into Elaine and George Grandolfi's yard and subsequently flooded their basement. Several residents of the road were in attendance to make their complaints known and to see what the Board could do to help. Rodney McClaren spoke of his concerns about his driveway. He is worried that all the water could plug his pipe that is located under it and could possibly break up his driveway. Elaine and George Grandolfi talked about their yard and basement being flooded and how water gushes out of the pipe that goes into the pond at such a high rate of speed that the sand accumulates along the pond bed. They are also concerned about the environmental aspect of this. There was a question of re-establishing the catch basins that were taken out after the foundations were put in on Scott & Eileen Gibson's property. Joe explained that they were temporary basins for construction and when the grading was done they were eliminated. Silt fence was reinstalled along the bottom of the site. There is a conversion ditch that goes into a small pipe that collects water from the top part of the site. The basins would have filled up eventually and would not be able to stop the flow. Most of the silt fence is still intact, it just could not handle that amount of water. Joe had an aerial photo of the area in question. It showed where the top end of the drainage basin was and somewhere at the bottom where Mr. Gibson's property line

is. All of the upland area from Bennett Road and Route 165 is the drainage basin. There is 20 or 30 acres of water that is draining down to that one spot. Al Daigneault felt that the board should not give permits for new construction unless they can contain the water on their own property. He suggested that the Town should take the road over and that he might petition them to do so. Mr. Grandolfi asked the Board where residents go to resolve these types of issues and whose responsibility is it to maintain the road and basins with these problems. Joe explained that when someone develops a piece of property there are two commissions in town that they have to deal with. The Wetlands Commission, if any part of the project impacts wetlands and Planning & Zoning which deals with zoning issues, setbacks, and possibly engineering issues. Joe also emphasized the fact that no one on the board, himself included, is an engineer, and that they rely on the testimony of the applicants engineer. He cited Scott Gibson's property as an example where Scott hired an engineer and the engineer designed the driveway, the rip rap swale, designed a couple of detention ponds so during construction the water would be detained somewhat and would be released at a controlled rate. As for who is responsible for what happens on any given piece of property, that would fall to the property owner. Joe spoke with the engineer that was involved with the Gibson property and asked his opinion on what needs to be done to fix this ongoing problem. The area that drains is going into one culvert and the water that comes down from the high end, hits the road and stays to one side. The water needs to be slowed down first because water moving at a fast rate erodes faster than if it was going at a slower rate. The water needs to be detained somewhat on properties or on the road bed itself. A structure needs to be in place whether it's a rip rap line channel like the one Mr. Gibson has on his property or a series of storm basins with deep sumps so when the water hits it the water ponds up and allows the sediment to drop out and then continues to the next one and when it gets down to the end of the discharge point the water is cleaner. A lot of the sediment drops out and can get cleaned out of the basins on a regular basis. Due to the steep slopes of the properties, it would be impossible to retain the water on each one. Once Mr. Gibson's property is developed and the grass on the lawn and the woods have vegetation in them there will be less sediment coming down from there. If the dirt road was paved, and catch basins installed, the sediment coming down the road would not be an issue. Joe further stated that there are two options that he can see that would remedy the problem. One is the road needs to be upgraded and if the landowners want to keep it as a private road unfortunately it will fall on Mr. Buckley or a combination of landowners to come up with the money to have an engineer design and build a drainage system to handle that. If that is something that no one wants to do the other alternative is to upgrade the road to Town specifications and the Town could adopt the road but unfortunately that would be a much more expensive route. Road Foreman, Jim Crider expressed his sympathy with the landowners but explained that his hands were tied with going onto a private road. He suggested to them the possibility of forming an association or work together to get it engineered, do the drainage and bring it up to spec. The Town might be able to adopt and maintain the road once it's been inspected and is brought up to the standards that the Town is willing to accept but speaking on the Town's behalf there are rules that he has to abide by. Someone asked about applying for a grant. Jim said that he does apply for grants but they are for Town roads not private roads and he didn't know if they even had grants for the private sector. Mr. Buckley stated that some of the water going onto his road is coming from a catch basin on the Town road. He also stated that at one time the basin on his road was cleaned out by Town employees. Jim stated that it hasn't happened since he has been here and it will not happen again. Joe reiterated what he told the group earlier about how to take care of this problem and also stated that a cease and desist order could be issued to everyone who is contributing to the problem and if no one complied, it would end up in court. Joe asked Mr. Buckley if he would be willing to speak with an engineer as to what it would cost to fix the road and the road drainage. Mr. Buckley seemed to be on board with that and Joe told him he could get the names of some engineers that he knows that will be able to help him. It was decided that Joe and Jim will go the next day and have a look at the basin that is on the town road and this will be

kept on the agenda for next month and hopefully Mr. Buckley will have spoken with an engineer and have some idea of what needs to be done and he can let the board know.

The minutes from the November, 2014 meeting were read. Eric made a motion to accept as read, Lester seconded the motion, all in favor, motion carried.

The minutes from the February, 2015 meeting were read. Lester made a motion to accept, Tom seconded the motion, all in favor, motion carried.

The minutes from the March, 2015 meeting were read. Tom made a motion to accept as read, Eric seconded the motion, all in favor, motion carried.

The minutes from the July, 2015 meeting were read. Dave made a motion to accept as read, Eric seconded the motion, all in favor, motion carried.

Dave made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Lester seconded the motion, all in favor, motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 8:54 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

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Thomas Sweet, Chairman