

INLAND WETLANDS & WATERCOURSES COMMISSION
TOWN OF VOLUNTOWN
DECEMBER 5, 2019

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 p.m. by Chairman Tom Sweet.

Members present were Chairman Tom Sweet, Dave Miner, Lester Davis and Carl Grenier. Wetlands Agent Joe Theroux was also present. Absent were alternates Bob Panko and Chris Driscoll.

Audience of Citizens: Tom Mercier, Mr. & Mrs. House and Mr. & Mrs. McClaren.

Approval of Minutes: The approval of the October 3, 2019 minutes were tabled until the next meeting. Lester made a motion to approve the November 7th minutes, Carl seconded the motion, all were in favor, motion carried.

Old Business: Application IW-19-13. 221 Bennett Rd., Mr. Robert Buckley, installation of waterbar in driveway.

Joe passed out the plans for the board to look over again. Mrs. McClaren asked to look at the plans. The board looked at the plans and some discussion took place. Lester asked if the swale had been cleaned and Joe stated that there might have been a problem with the contractor. Joe called him and he told Joe he was going to call Mr. Buckley and discuss it. Mr. McClaren stated that he didn't think it was necessary because the road didn't need any more speed bumps, and he has trouble getting out of his driveway as it is. It was explained to him that the waterbars do slow traffic down but the main purpose is to decrease the velocity of the water and pull it off of the road. Mr. House asked about grading the road. Joe explained that Mr. Buckley is responsible for cleaning out all the bays and the swales. A couple of the waterbars need to be regraded and there is some other regrading that needs to be done.

Lester made a motion to accept Application IW-19-12, Mr. Robert Buckley, installation of waterbar in driveway, Chris seconded the motion, all in favor, motion carried.

New Business: Application IW-19-13, Town of Voluntown, Congdon Rd., and Stoll property drainage swale, 182 Congdon Rd.

Joe passed out photos and maps for the board to look at. He explained that there is a catch basin on the north side of the road and when it was originally put in there was an issue with getting the elevation set correctly. The water is backing up due to a new house that was built in a low point. The Town hired Boundaries to do a study and found that the catch basin on the north side needs to be re-engineered. The Town opted to do a shallow grass lined swale that would slowly transport the water to the wetlands, removing sediment as it goes. It would confine the water to a 9 foot trench. The board looked over the maps and discussion took plac

Dave made a motion to accept Application IW-19-13, Town of Voluntown, Congdon Rd., Stoll property, Carl seconded the motion, all in favor, motion carried.

Correspondence: A letter addressed to the Wetlands Agent and the Chairman from Mr. & Mrs. Grandolfi, 197 Bennett Rd. concerning Mr. Buckley's concerns about the sprinkler system that they put in on their property.

There was a question about whose property the sprinkler system was on. Mr. Buckley, at the November meeting, stated that it was in the road on his property. The board decided that it would be a civil matter between the two parties involved.

Agent's Report: Joe reported that he was contacted by Scott Arsenault recently. Mr. Arsenault purchased a hydro raking machine, which is a machine designed to harvest aquatic plants in ponds, and he will be trying to obtain a State permit for harvesting weeds. He contacted Darcy Winter from DEEP. He told her that there are people in Town that live on the lake who will want to do something about this and will come before the board eventually, so what should the Wetlands Commission do. He gave copies of her reply to the board and asked that they take it home and read it and decide how they want to handle this as a commission.

Dave made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Lester seconded the motion, all in favor, motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Thomas Sweet, Chairman