

Wallingford Inland Wetlands & Watercourses Commission

Wednesday, April 4, 2018

7:00 p.m.

Robert F. Parisi Council Chambers, Second Floor, Town Hall

45 South Main Street, Wallingford, CT

MINUTES

PRESENT: Chair James Vitali; Nicholas Kern, Secretary; Commissioners Deborah Phillips; Michael Caruso; Aili McKeen & Robert Simon, Alternates; Erin O'Hare, Environmental Planner.

NOT PRESENT: David Parent, Vice-Chair; Daryll Porto, Alternate.

Chair Vitali called the Meeting to Order at 7:02 p.m. and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES

1. Special Meeting, March 19, 2018. 7:00 p.m.

Commissioner Kern noted that on page 13 of the Minutes, it was noted that Ms. O'Hare spoke about suggesting obtaining a photo of what was discussed. Ms. O'Hare said this referred to a photo of the 801 N. Colony site. She said she did not take a photo, but noted there are photos from the Consultants.

MS. PHILLIPS: MOTION THAT THE SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES OF MARCH 19, 2018 BE APPROVED AS SUBMITTED

MR. KERN: SECOND

**VOTE: MCKEEN – YES; KERN – YES; PHILLIPS – YES; CARUSO – YES;
VITALI – YES**

OLD BUSINESS

1. **#A18-1.2/801 North Colony Road & 6 Beaumont Road/Padens Brook – NERP Holding & Acquisitions Company, LLC – (commercial development)**

Chair Vitali recused himself from this application, stating that he owns one of the properties involved in this application. Commissioner Kern took over the Meeting as Acting-Chair.

Appearing in front of the Commission was Atty. Dennis Ceneviva, Ceneviva Law Firm, representing NERP Holding & Acquisitions Company, LLC; Jim Cassidy, Project Engineer, and George Logan, Environmental Ecologist, Soil Scientist and biologist.

Atty. Ceneviva said the Applicant wished to respond to questions raised at the Special IWWC Meeting of March 19, 2018, i.e. the pipe coming from the Walmart property, and concerns about how potential erosion would be handled as part of the brook remediation project. Atty. Ceneviva said he believed these questions were raised in submissions provided by the Applicant. Mr. Cassidy, Project Engineer, noted that comments were received last Thursday in Ms. O'Hare's Environmental Planner's Report. He noted there were some tweaks made to the plan, besides additional information regarding the pipe were added to the plan. He said two full-set of plans were provided to the Commission and noted he had copies of five sets of plans showing these changes, which he distributed to the Commission.

Mr. Cassidy showed the existing site photo on 801 Beaumont Rd. which showed evidence of an existing pipe coming out of the northerly boundary line. He said there is also an existing head wall associated with the old bridge. He said further survey work was done to locate the pipe and discovered the pipe outlet is located on Walmart's property. Mr. Cassidy said he researched old plans and noted that plan was for the reconstruction of Beaumont Road, noting that back in 1987; Old North Colony Road came off of North Colony Road through the Wal-Mart property, cross over the bridge in place, to line up with the Old North Colony Road on the southerly side of Beaumont Rd. He noted the intersection was reconstructed and Beaumont Rd. was brought in as a 90 degree to N. Colony Road. He said as part of the reconstruction, there was a drainage system into Beaumont Rd. which consisted of a series of catch basins and manholes.

Mr. Cassidy noted there was a 24-inch pipe that came out of the manhole and ran parallel to the easterly side of N. Colony Rd., and discharged through the culver. Mr. Cassidy pointed out that as part of the reconstruction project, the manhole was eliminated, a new catch basin was constructed which came through the existing head wall at the culvert, and the storm drainage system was re-routed down to the new intersection. Mr. Cassidy showed the remnants of the abandoned pipe, and said he wasn't sure if the pipe ran through the entire property. He stressed this pipe was no longer connected. Mr. Cassidy addressed the alleged "seeps of water" coming out of this pipe, and stated he believed ground water in the area was being picked up by the pipe joints and seeping out through the head wall.

Mr. Cassidy addressed the revised plans and noted that if the pipe remained in place, it would be cut through. He said if it is encountered, the pipe would be bulk-headed and the rest of the pipe abandoned. Mr. Cassidy addressed comments regarding the watercourse being accurately depicted on the site plan. Mr. Cassidy said the entire length of the watercourse on the property was re-surveyed on Monday. He said he found it to be very similar from where the watercourse was previously located, noting there was more detail picked up around the area of the bend, where there is an eroded area. He said a 20 ft. section of the vertical embankment was added to the plan. Mr. Cassidy addressed comments by Ms. O'Hare regarding the erosion sediment control plan. He noted that when the 7,200 sq. ft. building was eliminated, the sediment basis was moved.

Mr. Cassidy addressed Ms. O'Hare's request of a bio-retention swale near the concrete display pads. He said the water will drain off the concrete pads into the swale and will infiltrate into the ground and excess water will discharge into a catch basis. He said a series of shrubs will be planted into the center of the swale along with a wetlands flower mix planted around the perimeter slopes with the upper edge containing a lawn area. He said all of this was added to the plans.

Mr. Logan addressed the restoration of the stream corridor. He distributed his plans and notes to the IWWC. Mr. Logan said more detail was added to the plan. He went over the prominent details on the plans. Mr. Logan spoke about Area #1 on the map, which is to the north, which he said was split up into two subsections. He said it was decided not to use herbicides in close vicinity to the large cottonwood tree which is being protected. He said chemical applications will occur in area 1A which is the locus of infestation for Japanese knotweed. Mr. Logan said a haybale barrier will be placed at the top of the streambank. He noted in some places, the haybale barrier may be within the delineated wetland boundary, but is on moderately well-drained alluvial soil. Mr. Logan pointed out the area adjacent to the brook which will have thick stream-side vegetation to shade and hold the bank.

Mr. Logan said he met this afternoon with Ms. O'Hare. He said one of the items discussed prior, but added to the plan, is the buried aluminum flashing knotweed barrier, which will keep the knotweed from spreading from the Walmart property onto the Tractor Supply property. Atty. Ceneviva noted there was a question of the effect of removing the Japanese Knotweed from the slope areas. Mr. Logan said the slope area which has slopes of 3:1 and higher, contains Japanese Knotweed. He said in this area, a coir mat will be utilized. He said in the downgradient portion of the slope, there is an exposed bank which has eroded. He said the coir mats will be rolled down over this exposed area, and seed will be embedded in the mats. Mr. Cassidy said a detailed survey was done in this area and by installing the mat and having vegetation grow back, this will be a way to stabilize the area, which will also be monitored over time.

Acting-Chair Kern asked about the oversight of the RCP pipe with the headwall on the Walmart side of the property. Mr. Cassidy explained this was off the Tractor Supply property, approximately 30 ft. He said he didn't know if the pipe was in place at this time and believes it is abandoned. He said there is no indication on the design plan the Town had prepared. Acting-Chair Kern asked Mr. Logan if he needed State approval to install the coir matting on the bank. Mr. Logan said no State approval is needed as long as the work is above the high-water mark. Acting-Chair Kern asked if there would be an encroachment or an easement would be required. Mr. Logan said the work will stop at the Tractor Supply property line and noted the wing-wall is close to the property boundary and this will give us an idea of where to stop.

Acting-Chair Kern said it would make sense aesthetic wise to have this all cleaned up to the State guardrail. Mr. Logan said he has made a recommendation to the State. Acting-Chair Kern asked how this would affect the project if the State would not allow this to be done. Mr. Logan said most of the work will be done within the riparian zone and approximately 98% of the work is on the Tractor Supply side of the property. He said his recommendations regarding invasive species are in the North Colony Road Right-Of-Way. He said he cannot go there without express permission but noted this is going away from the actual stream corridor.

Acting-Chair Kern asked if there was a maintenance plan for the project if the knotweed comes back. Mr. Logan said this will be a six-year program, with the bulk of the project taking the first two years. He said the notes speak about what will happen in years three, four, five and six. He said that hopefully, by the year six, there will be established vegetation which would shade out the knotweed. Mr. Logan said he was asked to consider doing some mechanical removal of knotweed without using chemicals adjacent to the brook on the west side. He said he didn't see a problem with doing this and has been added to the notes for Area #3 which pertains to the drawing. Acting-Chair Kern asked about the current slope and the slope

upon completion of the project. He asked if there will be any modification to the banks and the slope through disturbance with the weed control project. He asked what would change. Mr. Logan said hopefully, there will be change to the better, i.e., removal of vegetation which shouldn't be there and a lot more vegetation that should be there. Mr. Logan said the gabion wall on the west side will deflect water coming from the east side. He said the proposals will shore up the banks to a greater extent of what is there currently. Acting-Chair Kern asked about the trees flagged with green tape and asked if they would be removed. Mr. Logan said these trees will try to be preserved, i.e. the large Cottonwood, and some small cherry trees, and noted the outlet system drainage was reworked to accomplish this. Acting-Chair Kern asked the percentage of trees being removed. Mr. Logan explained that only the larger trees, the deciduous trees, would be removed. He said the top of a large Cottonwood will be removed, but the trunk will remain in place as a habitat. He said there are a few trees which will probably succumb to the Emerald Ash Borer, but two of these trees will be replaced in Area 1A with two Sycamores in year four. Acting-Chair Kern asked about aquatic species, which he said was discussed at the March 19 Special Meeting. Mr. Logan said there were three species recognized in this area: scuds, leeches and snails, which are all pollution tolerant.

Ms. O'Hare referenced her March 29, 2018 Environmental Planner's Report. She noted the Applicant has been very cooperative and has done a lot of work. She said she also handed out a one-page Environmental Planner's Report tonight with some revised suggested Conditions of Approval. Ms. O'Hare noted this is a very ambitious mitigation plan and is ambitious to oversee this for six years and is commendable. She said she was happy to hear the bittersweet vines will be cut from the trees. Ms. O'Hare noted this is a disturbed site and when the project is completed, this will be a restored habitat and restored river corridor. She asked the Applicant to speak about their work in Colchester and also how the coir mat would be utilized on the steep eroding bank. Ms. O'Hare noted the bank is eroding on the top because of the sandy soils. She asked the Applicant if they considered pulling back the top 10 ft. to 12 ft. and laying it down. Mr. Cassidy said the Applicant considered pulling back the top 10 ft. to 12 ft. of the bank. He noted in dealing with other towns, they would prefer nothing be touched and this is why this originally wasn't pursued. He said the Applicant wanted to keep this status quo by putting the matting down and putting vegetation on it and restablizing the embankment. He said he agreed the embankment is steep, but noted the majority of the embankment is a 2:1 slope in the area except where the vertical erosion occurred. Mr. Cassidy said the Applicant prefers not to have to go to DEEP or the Army Corps of Engineers for a permit, so the Applicant wants to stay above the mean high water line, which is elevation 60 in the area. He said the Applicant would clear and regrade approximately 1,800 sq. ft. which would be a 2:1 slope. He said a mat revegetated with shrubbery could be installed, or large boulders could be installed. He said the Applicant is open to suggestions.

Acting-Chair Kern said he was concerned that the area would be stripped. Mr. Cassidy said he wants to work around the area, and install a mat. He said if something additional is done to pull the slope back, some small trees will have to be removed. Acting-Chair Kern said he couldn't believe that the Applicant would go through all this trouble and not get a profile, so people could see this from N. Colony Road. Mr. Cassidy said the Applicant would like to clear-cut. He said the Applicant was trying to be environmentally sensitive and leave the vegetation in place. He said the purpose of doing this mitigation is that the area is inundated with invasive species. He said the bittersweet would choke out the trees and take them down. Acting-Chair Kern wanted to know why the Applicant just didn't show the Commission what they wanted to

do. He said it this is going to be done, it should be done correctly. He said he was concerned about the area of the property that drops down five or six feet in the corner. He asked what will be done to stabilize this area, noting it isn't stable now. Acting-Chair Kern noted that there will be erosion and there will be a problem because of the type of sandy soil, asphalt and garbage. He asked the property be made presentable and go the extra mile to make it so, especially in the corner. Ms. O'Hare noted that a 20 ft. width of this corner is crumbling from the top. Acting-Chair Kern said the time is now to recommend this area be fixed. Ms. O'Hare said the Applicant recommended the coir mats which would be pinned into the sand wall with seeds of shrubs and grass. She said eventually the bank would grow in with shrubs and grass. She wondered why this area wasn't pulled back. Mr. Cassidy said his preference would be to regrade the entire slope. He said this will improve the appearance of the site. Mr. Logan said the invasives will be eradicated and after four to six weeks, the mats will be installed with the specific seeds imbedded. He said the mats will be secured at the top and rolled down the bank. Mr. Logan said at the vertical face, the seeds can be embedded into the actual blanket. He said he would speak to the manufacturer. He said he believed this would work.

Mr. Logan said he couldn't guarantee there wouldn't be further erosion and soil would get under the blanket, but noted this could be monitored and the plan could be amended. Mr. Cassidy said the Applicant would approve the modified grading area. Atty. Ceneviva said the objective of this project is the desire to retain as many trees as possible and weigh this against doing this particular plan which is the much preferred effort. Acting-Chair Kern noted that from what he has seen at the site, some of the mature shade trees can remain, and the younger trees don't have to be there. He said the blanket or shrubs can be offered. Acting-Chair Kern said his recommendation would be to install the Gabion baskets in the corner that goes underneath N. Colony Rd., and bring the toe slope back. He said this would stop the erosion, noting over the past 10 years, the storms have increased in intensity. He said he would like to see this fixed. Mr. Cassidy said the Applicant has no problem with this and will gladly grade the slope. He suggested installing large boulders along the toe of the slope instead of Gabion baskets. Acting-Chair Kern said with the large boulders, the soils erode around them and the boulders disappear. He said the gabion baskets are the way to go. Mr. Cassidy said the Applicant would agree to install the gabion baskets.

Ms. O'Hare noted the grading lines go over the property line. Mr. Cassidy said the Applicant has to obtain an encroachment permit with the State for water and sewer and would represent that as part of the encroachment permit. Ms. O'Hare went over the conditions of approval. She said the Commission might want to consider a bond for the mitigation plan.

Acting-Chair Kern entertained a motion on Significant Activity.

**MS. PHILLIPS: MOTION THAT APPLICATION #A18-1.2/801 NORTH COLONY ROAD
& 6 BEAUMONT RD/PADENS BROOK – NERP HOLDING & ACQUISITIONS
COMPANY, LLC – (COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT) BE DEEMED NOT A
SIGNIFICANT ACTIVITY**

MR. CARUSO: SECOND

VOTE: MCKEEN – YES; PHILLIPS – YES; CARUSO – YES; KERN – YES;

SIMON – YES; CHAIR VITALI – ABSTAIN

Acting-Chair Kern entertained a motion to approve or deny the application.

**MS. PHILLIPS: MOTION THAT APPLICATION #A18-1.2/801 NORTH COLONY ROAD
& 6 BEAUMONT RD/PADENS BROOK – NERP HOLDING & ACQUISITIONS
COMPANY, LLC – (COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT) BE APPROVED WITH
THE FOLLOWING CONDITIONS NOTED IN THE ENVIRONMENTAL
PLANNER'S REPORT OF APRIL 4, 2018**

- 1. AN EROSION CONTROL PERFORMANCE BOND OF \$20,000 BE POSTED PRIOR TO COMMENCEMENT OF DEMOLITION OR CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITIES ON-SITE;**
- 2. A BOND OF \$10,000 TO BE POSTED PRIOR TO COMMENCEMENT OF ANY WORK ACTIVITIES IN THE RIVER CORRIDOR;**
- 3. ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNER TO BE CONTACTED THAT PROJECT PERMIT WORK WILL BE COMMENCING TWO WEEKS IN ADVANCE OF ANTICIPATED COMMENCEMENT;**
- 4. ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNER TO BE CONTACTED TO INSPECT THE EROSION CONTROL MEASURES THAT WERE REQUIRED TO BE INSTALLED AS THE FIRST STEP IN THE CONSTRUCTION SEQUENCE TO DETERMINE SATISFACTORY LOCATION AND INSTALLATION;**
- 5. THE ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNER TO BE CONTACTED TO INSPECT EROSION CONTROL MEASURES TO BE INSTALLED AT EVERY SUBSEQUENT STEP IN THE CONSTRUCTION SEQUENCE WHERE NEW EROSION CONTROLS ARE REQUIRED IN THE SEQUENCE**
- 6. SIGNAGE INDICATING "DO NOT MOW BOTTOM OF BIO-RETENTION SWALE" TO BE INSTALLED AT EITHER END OF THE BIO-RETENTION SWALE;**
- 7. PERMIT WORK TO INCLUDE SUCCESSFUL IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PADENS BROOK RESTORATION/MITIGATION PLAN: OPTION 2 – THE RIPARIAN BUFFER RESTORATION ENHANCEMENT AND MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR PADENS BROOK ADJACENT TO THE TRACTOR SUPPLY CENTER, 801 N. COLONY RD., WALLINGFORD, CT, REVISED TO 4/4/18 – A SIX-YEAR PLAN;**
- 8. PADENS RIVER CORRIDOR RESTORATION PLAN WORK TO COMMENCE WITHIN TWO MONTHS OF COMMENCEMENT OF DEVELOPMENT/CONSTRUCTION. IF COMMENCEMENT OF DEVELOPMENT CONSTRUCTION OCCURS IN WINTER MONTHS,**

COMMENCEMENT OF MITIGATION PLAN WORK SHALL OCCUR THAT SPRING; THE SIX-YEAR MITIGATION PLAN DURATION SHALL BE COUNTED BASED ON THE MITIGATION PLAN WORK COMMENCEMENT, NOT BASED ON THE DEVELOPER'S CONSTRUCTION SCHEDULE;

- 9. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE APPROVED PADENS RIVER CORRIDOR RESTORATION PLAN TO BE OVERSEEN BY A CERTIFIED ECOLOGIST AND/OR PROFESSIONAL WETLANDS SCIENTIST THROUGHOUT THE SIX YEARS OF THE PLAN IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD;**
- 10. ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNER TO BE CONTACTED REGARDING ANY ISSUES WHICH MAY ARISE CONCERNING IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PADENS RIVER CORRIDOR RESTORATION PLAN AS APPROVED, AND CONCERNING POSSIBLE PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE PLAN AS ORIGINALLY APPROVED AND CONCERNING POSSIBLE PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE PLAN AS ORIGINALLY APPROVED AS A RESULT OF FIELD CONDITIONS ENCOUNTERED. ADDITIONAL PERMITTING MAY BE REQUIRED;**
- 11. BI-ANNUAL REPORTS REGARDING PROGRESS OF IMPLEMENTATION AND SUCCESS OF PLAN OBJECTIVES TO BE SUBMITTED TO THE ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNER BY THE CERTIFIED ECOLOGIST AND/OR PROFESSIONAL WETLAND SCIENTIST OVERSEEING THE PADENS RIVER CORRIDOR RESTORATION PLAN.**
- 12. REPORTING DATE TO COMMENCE BASED ON START OF MITIGATION PLAN WORK DATE; WETLANDS PLACARDS TO BE PLACED**

MR. CARUSO: SECOND

VOTE: MCKEEN – YES; PHILLIPS – YES; CARUSO – YES; SIMON – KERN – YES; VITALI – ABSTAIN

Chair Vitali took over the meeting at 8:11 p.m.

2. **#A18.3.1/1329 Durham Road** – Patrick Armstrong – (shed) – administrative approval request

Ms. O'Hare said she visited the site and said this was a candidate for administrative approval. Ms. O'Hare said the Applicant was willing to put the shed on concrete blocks which she noted was not indicated in the drawings. Ms. O'Hare said the shed will have a gravel base with one concrete block in the front and three concrete blocks in the back because the shed is on a slope. The application was approved administratively by Chair Vitali.

NEW BUSINESS – NONE.

RECEIPT OF NEW APPLICATIONS

1. **#A18-4.1/291 Hall Avenue – Community Lake Park** – Wallingford Parks & Recreation Department – (tree thinning & vegetative removal) – received by Chair Vitali.

Ms. O'Hare said Parks & Recreation have submitted a new application. Chair Vitali explained that Parks & Recreation wants to remove vegetation on the slope going into the water on some areas around the pond to have visibility and to have it look more aesthetic. Ms. O'Hare noted work was done two years ago, but nothing has been done since. Chair Vitali said in the discussion at last month's Special Meeting of March 19, it was noted that some of the slopes were steep, and it was thought by removing vegetation, there would be erosion. Chair Vitali said others wanted to cut the vegetation, so people could look over the top. He said it was felt the best way to do this was through a site investigation which he said he would be unable to attend. Ms. O'Hare said now would be the best time for a site investigation before the vegetation grows so the lay of the land could be seen. Commissioner Kern said he was at the site on Sunday and agreed with Chair Vitali to have a site walk towards the latter part of the month before the next Commission meeting.

Ms. O'Hare said one can go down to the water now, but cannot once the vegetation fills out. Commissioner Kern suggested selective pruning be done so the pond can be seen from the walkway. The Commission planned a site walk for April 24 or April 25. Ms. O'Hare will advise IWWC of final date and time.

2. **#A18-4.2/108 Hanover Street, Wallingford – 213 Evansville Avenue, Meriden** – City of Meriden Aviation Commission – modification to IWWC **#A16 – 12.2** – (security fence installation) – received by Chair Vitali.

Chair Vitali said this application involves a request for a security fence. He said Ms. O'Hare's investigation turned up a possible violation involving erosion. Chair Vitali said a lot of time was spent with this application and was surprised the security fence wasn't necessary then and said he was sorry there was an erosion problem.

Ms. O'Hare said she met with Randy Christensen of Stantec and a representative from the City of Meriden which owns the property. Chair Vitali asked if the violation was in Meriden or in Wallingford. Ms. O'Hare noted the airport straddles both Wallingford and Meriden town lines. She said the particular violation is in Wallingford. Ms. O'Hare said the work was complete under the first permit, but now the Permittee wants to add a security fence in the upland review area. She said as she was walking the site, she noticed erosion. Ms. O'Hare pointed out the soil is sand and gravel. Ms. O'Hare referred to the letter she sent to the Permittee regarding the erosion problem, requesting an action plan handed out to the IWWC tonight.

Ms. O'Hare explained that in the process of removing vegetation, which was permitted, slash was left which was part of the application. She said the slash ended up clogging an inlet which filled up below area and went over the top of the berm and cut down through the sand and went into the pond. Ms. O'Hare said there was also a large amount of rain on frozen ground which also contributed to the erosion. Ms. O'Hare said the Permittee wants to lay back the slope and stabilize the slope.

Appearing in front of the Commission was Randy Christensen, Environmental Scientist with Stantec. He showed a photo of the view of the culvert as it was found on January 19, as part of vegetation management. He said the blocked culvert was immediately uncovered by hand. Mr. Christensen said there wasn't much evidence of flow or water leading up to the spot. He said this wasn't seen again until he went on the site walk with Ms. O'Hare and Paul Dickson, Meriden Associate City Planner. Mr. Christensen said at that time, the culvert had clogged up again after being uncovered by hand in January. He said the plan is

to get a rubber tired backhoe at the site and uncover the grate and take the wood around the inlet and remove it from the site. He said when the sand and gravel operation created the pond, there wasn't much detail put into the slope stabilization. He said some of the areas remain vertical faces (showed photos), which happens to be on airport property. He said when water flowed over from the culvert; it went over the vertical face and carried sand with it. Mr. Christensen said with continuation of sand to the culvert, there is no more watershed left to the erosion area. He said there is no surrounding watershed that can enter. He noted that by maintaining the culvert open, the short-term problem of the erosion happening again at the field has been eliminated.

Mr. Christensen there are two plans being considered: one is to fill in the hole which is not a wetlands, but in the upland review area, and without fill, the toe of the slope can be maintained and cut it backwards. Mr. Christensen pointed out that if the slope is cut backwards, it gets too close to the culvert inlet and would be more susceptible to an overflow of water. He said he is leaning towards filling in the hole (showed photo), and creating a 2 1/2:1 or 3:1 slope that can be maintained with the sandy soil. He said the area would be seeded with jute mesh and seed. He said the culvert will be made to stay very open to eliminate clogging and he intends on coming to the Commission with contours and a wetland boundary and a microplan of the area. Mr. Christensen said it would take approximately 20 yards to 30 yards of material to fill in the hole and to create the slope.

Commissioner Kern noted the pipe has been on this site since 1950. He said there is a brook that comes down from the Chimney Sweep Food area and goes down to the Rod & Gun Club and fills up their pond and branches off and goes either to the pond below the greenhouses. He said this was an overflow area and the pipe was put in so the water wouldn't run across the airport runway. He said the Army Corps of Engineers widened the road and this is how the area got wiped out. Commissioner Kern said he understood the Permittee knew this was there and was going to chip the area and do what was necessary to make the area stable. He noted any wetlands on that site are created wetlands. He said no one can say they didn't know this was there. Mr. Christensen said until the area was mowed, he had never seen that culvert inlet. He noted he is a new consultant team at the airport and did not know that culvert was there. He said now that the area is open, the connection to the Rod & Gun property can be seen.

Commissioner Kern said some sort of hood setup should be installed in that area. Mr. Christensen said the clogging of the culvert preceded any vegetation management that was done. Commissioner Kern asked where the fence would be located in relation to the drainage. Mr. Christensen said he stopped short of the drainage issue. He showed a photo of the airport and the location of the proposed fence. He said the existing fence goes through a pond. He said this can't be moved to the top of slope because of an airspace obstruction, so the fence will come half way up from the wetland boundary and will be approximately 1,307 ft. of fence. He noted that when the fence gets past the wetland boundary, it will be tied back into the existing fence. He said the erosion is 50 ft. from past where the fence turns on the north side. He said the pipe will be within the airport property. Mr. Christensen said the culvert will be part of the airport maintenance program.

Commissioner Kern asked about the intention of the new security fence and how the bank will be stabilized so the fence doesn't wash down the embankment. Mr. Christensen said concrete is not used on fence posts on slopes, so direct driven posts will be done from the top of slope in 10-ft. sections and the fabric

will be installed. Commissioner Kern asked about the frost. Mr. Christensen said there was frost in this ground which he said was a rare year for this. Commissioner Kern said this is what happened in the past with the fence going into the pond because one post fell down and the fence went into the pond. Chair Vitali asked if a chain-link fence with fabric was to be used. Mr. Christensen said the fence will be chain link fabric with three-strand barbed wire on top. He said the fence will be installed before summer. Mr. Christensen said a five-foot cleared area will be maintained on either side of the fence. Commissioner Kern asked that a hooded structure be installed on the pipe. Mr. Christensen spoke about a vertical inlet. Commissioner Kern said he wanted something to be put around the pipe to keep the brush away. Mr. Christensen said he would look into installing trash grates.

Ms. O'Hare asked Mr. Christensen to review the plan for the 2,000 foot-slope if autumn olive or tree saplings start to grow. Mr. Christensen said the only maintenance plan now is at the top which was mowed. He said there are no brush cutters. He said both sides of the fence will be hand maintained. He said if trees began to grow, he would have to come back to the Commissioner for another program noting there is no regular maintenance because of the lack of manpower to maintain this area. He said it would be 10 to 15 years down the road before anything grew back. He said there will be basic lawn maintenance done to the top of slope and the fence will be maintained once a year with a weed blade.

Chair Vitali noted that the Permittee had requested administrative approval. Ms. O'Hare said she didn't know if the Commission wanted to consider this at tonight's meeting. She said the original permit had protocols required by DEEP regarding box turtles. Mr. Christensen said he hadn't gotten a response from DEEP. Ms. O'Hare said box turtles are threatened not endangered. Chair Vitali noted the box turtle protocol was done during the original approval and asked if this protocol was not being followed. Ms. O'Hare said this work was done during the winter, and the box turtles emerge from hibernation in April and May. She said she requested the box turtles be addressed when the fence permit approval was requested.

Ms. O'Hare said the turtles will come up into the clear-cut area. She requested personnel pick up the box turtles and put them on the other side of the fence. Commissioner Kern said there is nothing to eat on the tarmac and said they will hang around the pond. Ms. O'Hare said those were painted turtles, noting the box turtles like to hang out in the scrubby forest which was eliminated. She said when they emerge and find nothing, she would like the turtles moved to the other side of the fence which will be a scrubby area. Ms. O'Hare said she requested a sign on the gate which asks for the box turtles to be put on the other side of the fence and to follow whatever DEEP requests. The Permittee agreed to these conditions.

The Commission agreed to administrative approval for the fence. Chair Vitali entertained a motion to approve the security fence.

**MR. KERN: MOTION THAT APPLICATION #A18.4.2/108 HANOVER STREET, WALLINGFORD
213 EVANSVILLE AVENUE, MERIDEN – CITY OF MERIDEN AVIATION
COMMISSION – MODIFICATION TO IWWC #A16-12.2 – (SECURITY FENCE
INSTALLATION) BE APPROVED AS SUBMITTED WITH THE CONDITIONS OF
APPROVAL THAT THE SIGNS FOR THE BOX TURTLES BE PLACED ONTO**

THE GATES AND THE STAFF DOING THE WORK WILL BE NOTIFIED
TO TRANSPLANT ANY BOX TURTLES THAT WANDER OUT WHERE THEY
ARE NOT SUPPOSED TO BE AND TO PUT BACK INTO THE PROPER PLACE AND
ALSO THE STANDARD S&E CONTROL MEASURES BE APPLIED PRIOR TO THE
FENCE CONSTRUCTION AND ANY PROTOCOLS THAT COME BACK
FROM THE DEEP NATURAL DIVERSITY DATABASE PEOPLE REGARDING
THE BOX TURTLES BE FOLLOWED

MS. PHILLIPS: SECOND

VOTE: MCKEEN – YES; KERN – YES; PHILLIPS – YES; CARUSO –YES; VITALI -YES

ELECTION OF OFFICERS – TABLED

REPORTS & COMMUNICATIONS

1. Letter to the IWWC from Denis Blais, Project Manager, Algonquin Gas Transmission, LLC re: C-1 System Natural Gas Pipeline Anomaly Investigation in vicinity of S. Turnpike Road easement, dated 3.19/18; received 3/20/18.

Ms. O'Hare noted no local approvals are required, this is operated under FERC (Federal Energy Regulatory Commission). She said the letter was sent to the Town as a courtesy. She said the routine work goes through a wetland so timber mats will be laid.

VIOLATIONS – NONE

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Phillips made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:48 p.m. Commissioner McKeen seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia A. Kleist

Recording Secretary