

**CITY OF TORRINGTON
INLAND WETLANDS COMMISSION
MINUTES
January 15, 2019**

Present: Jay Bate, Jr., Chairman
Jane Bakker, Secretary/Member
Jonathan Andrews, Member
Tomasz Kalinowski, Member

Also Present: Rista Malanca, Inland Wetlands Enforcement Officer

Not Present: Christine Altman, Vice Chair
Tom Telman, Member
William Storti, Member

1. Call To Order:

7:00 p.m.; Torrington City Hall, Room 218, City Hall Room 215, 140 Main Street, Torrington, CT

2. Roll Call and Announcement:

Mr. Jay Bate Jr., Chairman, announced present and serving on the Commission this evening will be Jane Bakker, Jonathan Andrews, Tomasz Kalinowski and Jay Bate. Also present is Inland Wetlands Enforcement Officer Rista Malanca.

3. Minutes for Approval:

a. 11/20/18

MOTION by Mr. Andrews, seconded by Mr. Kalinowski to approve the 11/20/18 minutes, motion carried with Ms. Bakker abstaining from voting.

4. Old Business:

None

5. New Business:

a. Applicant: Mark Mueller, CF Forest Resources Mgr., Hull Forest Products
Location: 3674 Torrington Street
Activity: Temporary stream and wetlands crossings, as-of-right timber harvest

Mark Mueller, Hull Forest Products appeared representing the owners of the property. This parcel contains 119 acres, and they will be working a small portion of that property. They will have one wetlands crossing and one stream crossing. Mr. Mueller provided

details of how they will cross the regulated areas, and illustrations were reviewed by the Commission. All materials will be taken away upon completion.

Ms. Malanca inquired when the harvest will occur, and Mr. Mueller responded either winter or summer.

Per Mr. Mueller, the wetlands crossing will be 50 feet or less. The stream crossings will be on portable bridges. All these type bridges are premade, and will be brought in and placed on site.

Ms. Malanca stated this is typical of what we see for timber harvesting, and it is a as of right use.

MOTION by Ms. Bakker to APPROVE the application of :

- a. Applicant: Mark Mueller, CF Forest Resources Mgr., Hull Forest Products
 Location: 3674 Tarringford Street
 Activity: Temporary stream and wetlands crossings, as-of-right timber harvest
 per section 4.1a of the Inland Wetlands Regulations.
 Motion seconded by Mr. Kalinowski, unanimously carried.

Ms. Malanca asked Mr. Mueller to send her an email before the work is about to begin.

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MOTION by Ms. Bakker to add an item to the agenda by 2/3rds vote:
Informal discussion with Timberlake Homeowners Association regarding weed control,
Seconded by Mr. Andrews, motion unanimously carried.

Mr. Tom Ryan, board member of the Timber Lake Homeowners Association, on Weed Road, appeared before the Commission. Over the years the pond has been problematic in terms of weed control and they have tried hundreds of things. There are weeds year round, you can even see them through the winter ice. Their last choice is to drain the lake. They don't have a lot of resources, and are here for advice and guidance how to proceed.

One of their options is to put in a sluice gate, and this would give lakefront homeowners the chance to clean up their area. They will have to assess properties to raise the money for needed work.

Ms. Malanca inquired where the pond would be drained to. Mr. Ryan responded they would run the slewscape along the dam, and into the Bantam River. Chemicals cannot treat the pond, as the water turns over too quickly, forty times a year, and the chemicals do not stay long enough to be effective.

Mr. Bate provided examples of how another pond handles a similar situation, of lowering the level, giving homeowners a chance to rake, clean up and weed control.

Mr. Ryan provided more examples of the issues they are having, and the nutrients running into the pond, and the many invasives on site. Chemicals are just not working. Property values are being seriously affected by this situation.

Ms. Malanca noted that approvals from the State may be required, as the City of Torrington does not regulate dams, that is the State of Connecticut.

Further discussion followed on sluice gates, size of the wetlands, etc., and how to proceed. Ms. Malanca outlined types of work that would require appearance before this Inland Wetlands Commission. Ms. Malanca recommended coming up with a plan, and coming before this Commission with their proposal of all work planned and remediation plans. Permits will be good for five years. Ms. Malanca stated she can meet with any engineers or contractors prior to a Commission meeting to review.

6. Staff Report:

Ms. Malanca noted a Land Use seminar available on March 23, 2019 to Commissioners and City staff; and asked any Commissioners interested to contact her. It is an excellent seminar.

7. Adjournment:

MOTION by Ms. Bakker to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Andrews at 7:29 p.m., unanimously carried.