

CITY OF TORRINGTON

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To: Inland Wetlands Commission
From: Nate Nardi-Cyrus, City Planner/Wetlands Agent
Subject: Modification to Application WC23-09-02, David Alfano, 87 Eagle Ridge. Application for restoration of unpermitted alteration of wetlands.
Date: January 22, 2024

The City of Torrington's Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission (the "Commission"), has received an application for activities requiring a permit from the Commission based on state statute and local inland wetlands regulations. Regarding this application, at this meeting the Commission must:

1. Make a motion to formally accept the application to begin review
2. Make a determination whether the activities proposed in this application constitute a significant impact to wetlands or watercourses under the terms of Section 2.1 of the regulations. Alternatively, the Commission has the option of scheduling a site walk of the property and tabling the determination of significant impact to the next commission meeting.

As staff, I have conducted an initial review of the submitted plans and conducted a site inspection of the property regarding review of potential significant impacts with respect to section 2.1 of the regulations. Based on my review of the site and the submitted site restoration plan by JMM Wetland Consulting Services, LLC, dated December 31, 2023, I offer the following staff recommendation based on the following standards contained within the regulations:

1. Any activity involving deposition or removal of material which will or may have a substantial effect on the wetland or watercourse or on wetlands or watercourses outside the area for which the activity is proposed.

The application proposes a modification to the restoration of wetland vegetation and soils that were cut and filled in violation of permit #WC22-07-04.

2. Any activity which substantially changes the natural channel or may inhibit the natural dynamics of a watercourse system.

There are no watercourses on this site.

3. Any activity which substantially diminishes the natural capacity of an inland wetland or watercourse to: support aquatic, plant or animal life and habitats; prevent flooding; supply water; assimilate waste; facilitate drainage; provide recreation or open space; or perform other functions.

In my opinion, this proposed project will restore the processes and functions of these wetlands that were lost because of past wetlands violations.

4. Any activity which is likely to cause or has the potential to cause substantial turbidity, siltation or sedimentation in a wetland or watercourse.

Based on my review and that of the City Engineer, the erosion and sedimentation control plan appear to be acceptable for the level of proposed disturbance to the upland review and wetland areas on the subject property.

5. Any activity which causes substantial diminution of flow of a natural watercourse or groundwater levels of the wetland or watercourse.

It appears from my review of submitted plan that there will be no substantial change to surface flows or groundwater.

6. Any activity which is likely to cause or has the potential to cause pollution of a wetland or watercourse.

It appears from my review of submitted plan that there will be no additional pollution to surface flows or groundwater.

7. Any activity which damages or destroys unique wetland or watercourse areas or such areas having demonstrable scientific or educational value.

There are no Natural Diversity Database (NDDDB) records in the project area nor any records of sensitive or unique habitats on the subject property. There are no conservation or preservation easements or restrictions requiring review prior to IWC application review. No unique habitats have been identified in the project area.

In consideration of the above, I recommend that the commission make a motion that this proposed project is not a significant activity, and as such, does not require a public hearing for the application.

*Please note that this memo represents the staff opinion of the Wetlands Agent/
Assistant City Planner only.*