

TOWN OF FARMINGTON  
INLAND WETLANDS COMMISSION

February 19, 2020

Present were Acting Chairman Isner, Commissioners Fox, Simpson, Statchen, Tulin, Wolf and Alternate Commissioner Berlandy and Assistant Town Planner and Clerk. The meeting was called to order at 7:01 p.m.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Jason Levesque – 169 Main Street**

Regulated activity within upland review area to construct new house at 169 Main Street. Brian Cunningham, P.E., Robert Green Associates, asked if the Commissioners had any questions as a result of their site visit. He commented that he received staff comments and had no objections to addressing them. The Commissioners asked if the roof leaders from the existing garage that appear to pipe directly to the brook could somehow tie into the underground system with the house. Mr. Cunningham responded they would rather not disturb the existing pipe system design of the garage. The Commission asked for clarification of the proposed drainage plan. Mr. Cunningham reviewed the details on the site plan. The Commission asked if the existing curb cut near the northerly property line on Main Street will remain and if a crossing is proposed over the brook to access the rear portion of the lot. Mr. Cunningham responded the curb cut is not used but will remain in place. There are no plans to construct a brook crossing to the rear portion of the site. That portion of the lot can be accessed from the improved roadway Main Gate. There was a brief discussion regarding driveway potential off Main Street and installing a sidewalk. Assistant Town Planner Rutherford commented on the potential of a driveway; no space between the house and garage; state permit required for access off Main Street. Mr. Cunningham responded no sidewalk is proposed.

Upon a motion made and seconded (Statchen/Simpson) it was unanimously

VOTED: To make the determination that the Jason Levesque application for regulated activity within upland review area to construct new house at 169 Main Street is non-significant in nature and does not require a public hearing.

Upon a motion made and seconded (Statchen/Simpson) it was unanimously

VOTED: To approve the Jason Levesque application for regulated activity within upland review area to construct new house at 169 Main Street as presented and on file in the Planning Office with the following conditions:

1. Include 150 ft upland review limit line on the site plan;
2. Roof leaders to connect to an underground infiltration chamber, or discharge to the rear of the home to allow overland flow prior to discharge to the brook;
3. Contours shall extend through the driveway to the retaining wall;
4. The grading and layout for 169 Main St. is shown assuming the culvert, retaining walls, sewer line / utilities and revised profile for Main Gate will all be completed prior to the construction of 169 Main St; or will proceed concurrently. Add note to the site plan indicating same;

5. Contractor/applicant required to submit weekly erosion control inspections with photos to the town staff;
6. Require Integrated Pest Management for care of landscaping;
7. Pre-construction meeting and erosion control inspection required prior to the start of demolition / construction;
8. Confirm the evergreen tree at the southwest corner of the property is being removed;
9. Confirm that the existing drains to the brook are roof leaders or foundation drains for the garage. Any other connection to be disconnected; and
10. Expand the survey to include the location of the two discharge pipes.

#### Earthlight – 70 Batterson Park Road

Regulated activity within wetland and upland review area to install solar array at 70 Batterson Park Road. Eric Virkler, P.E., Earthlight, stated they have reviewed staff comments and have no issue addressing them. He then asked if there were any questions resulting from the site walk. The Commissioners had no new questions. There was a brief discussion to determine significance.

Upon a motion made and seconded (Wolf/Berlandy) it was

VOTED: 4 in favor (Wolf, Fox, Berlandy, Tulin) to 3 opposed (Isner, Statchen, Simpson) to make the determination that the Earthlight application for regulated activity within wetland and upland review area to install solar array at 70 Batterson Park Road is significant in nature and requires a public hearing.

A public hearing will be scheduled for March 18, 2020.

Members voting in favor of the motion felt because of the size of the project there may be public interest in what is happening; there will be some direct impact to the wetlands and that some additional information should be provided regarding the project. Members voting in opposition felt there were no permanent alteration of the wetlands.

Additional information requested be provided for the public hearing:

- a. The wet meadow – how will it perform in the shade under the panels.
- b. Timing of construction, machinery used, limits of disturbance.
- c. How long has the lawn been in place / maintained in its current condition.
- d. Are there any negative impacts to the wetlands from the solar panels, the installation of the panels, or the long-term maintenance of the solar field?
- e. What is the useful life expectancy of the panels?

#### Mark Abbott – 162 River Road

Regulated activity within upland review area for addition to house at 162 River Road. Mr. Abbott explained the scope of the work proposed and how it relates to the existing house. He stated the driveway is “banked up” on the house side of the driveway that prevents storm water from the house to directly run off to the river. The proposed garage addition will be on existing lawn area and silt fence will be installed as shown on the plan and an excavator will be used to

dig the foundation. The Commission asked if the driveway serves other properties and for clarification regarding drainage. The driveway does provide access to five parcels; some are developed, and some are not.

Upon a motion made and seconded (Statchen/Simpson) it was unanimously

VOTED: To accept the Mark Abbott application for regulated activity within upland review area for addition to house at 162 River Road.

The Commission will conduct a site walk on Sunday, March 1, 2020. Mr. Abbott was asked to stake out the garage addition footprint.

#### Town of Farmington – Mountain Spring Road

Scott Zenke, Highway & Grounds Superintendent, described necessary maintenance work for each of the following locations on Mountain Spring Road. Photographs were also used to show the existing condition of the culverts.

Culvert crossing at 99 Mt. Spring Rd: Inlet and outlet repair, remove CMU block headwalls, extend inlet and outlet by one pipe length, flared end sections and rip rap to be placed at inlet and outlet. Existing 24-inch RCP to be replaced with 30-inch HDPE in parallel alignment. Existing 24-inch to be abandoned in place. This location is shown as a wetland area on the GIS mapping and is a blue-line stream on the USGS map. A stone check dam will be used to divert the flow to the existing pipe while installing the new pipe. The pipe will be sized in accordance with the ACOE practices for new pipe culverts.

Culvert crossing at 125 / 130 Mt. Spring Rd: remove deteriorating CMU block headwall at outlet (west end), extend culvert one pipe length, and place stone rip rap around outlet. There are no wetlands shown on the town mapping at this location. There is no evidence of a blue line stream at this location on the USGS map.

Culvert crossing at 131 / 136 / 139 Mt. Spring Rd.: At outlet (west end) – remove CMU block headwall, extend culvert one pipe length and place rip rap to protect outlet. At inlet (east end) – clear inlet to allow for stormwater flow, place rip rap to protect inlet. There are no wetlands shown on the town mapping at this location. There is no evidence of a blue line stream at this location on the USGS map.

Culvert crossing at 164 / 181 Mt. Spring Rd.: At inlet and outlet – remove deteriorating CMU block headwalls, extend culvert by one pipe length at both inlet and outlet, and place rip rap to protect inlet and outlet. This culvert is located in a wetland area as shown on the town mapping. There is no evidence of a blue line stream at this location on the USGS map.

Culvert Crossing at 181 / 210 Mt Spring Rd.: At inlet and outlet: remove deteriorated CMU block headwalls, extend 36-inch culvert one-pipe length at inlet and outlet, and place rip rap to protect inlet and outlet. This location is shown as a wetland area on the GIS mapping and is a blue-line stream on the USGS map.

During the presentation of each location the Commission asked clarifying questions regarding the scope of work. There was a brief discussion regarding the ability to consider these application as 'by right' maintenance activities. After review of the regulations it was decided to proceed with the applications as submitted. Upon a motion made and seconded (Statchen/Wolf) it was unanimously

VOTED: To accept all five Town of Farmington applications (IW-2004 through IW-2008) for regulated activity within wetlands and upland review area for maintenance work at five existing culvert crossings along Mt. Spring Rd.

The Commissioners agreed that a site visit was not necessary.

### **PLANNER'S REPORT**

No Planner's Report.

### **MINUTES**

#### Meeting Minutes

01-08-20

Upon a motion made and seconded (Wolf/Statchen) it was unanimously

VOTED: To approve the January 8, 2020 Inland Wetlands meeting minutes with the amendment removing the sentence from the minutes "Based on the improvements made, reducing the number of lots is not warranted, as the quantity of lots does not have a material impact on the wetlands."

02-05-20

Upon a motion made and seconded (Fox/Wolf) it was unanimously

VOTED: To approve the February 5, 2020 Inland Wetlands meeting minutes.

02-09-20

Upon a motion made and seconded (Fox/Simpson) it was unanimously

VOTED: To approve the February 9, 2020 Inland Wetlands site walk minutes.

The meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

*SJM*