



TOWN OF GREENWICH

Inland Wetlands
& Watercourses Agency
(203) 622-7736
Fax 622-7764

Town Hall ~ 101 Field Point Road ~ Greenwich, CT 06830

SPECIAL MEETING

MINUTES

Monday, March 13, 2017

In attendance: Brian Harris, Chairman, Elliot Benton Vice Chairman, Joseph Rogers, and Jay Schondorf

Also in attendance: Patricia Sesto, Director, Robert Clausi, Senior Wetlands Analyst

I. Call to Order

Chairman Harris called the meeting to order at 7:20 p.m.

II. Seating of Alternates

No alternates were present.

III. New Business

a. Meeting Schedule Discussion

Patricia Sesto recapped her reasoning for considering a 2x per month meeting schedule. Additional meetings would enable applicants to move through the process more quickly. Violations could be handled more quickly. There would still be an opportunity to schedule a public hearing after the first night of presentations. And, the agency would have more opportunities to discuss projects than the maximum of three meetings available with the current schedule and statutory time constraints.

Chairman Harris added the criticism of the process length is a long standing complaint for which too little meaningful input has been provided to understand the basis for the discontent.

Mrs. Sesto reviewed the application submission process and the subsequent statutory obligations of the agency. There is no ability to turn away incomplete applications. The regulations and application checklist function to inform prospective applicants of what the agency expects in order to evaluate a project, but in the end it is the applicant's choice what they submit to support the application. If insufficient information is submitted to support the request, the agency would then deny the application as incomplete. Also, the submission of a required document does not guarantee the adequacy of the information contained therein.

It is the goal of staff to communicate missing or inadequate information promptly so that the application has its best chance at being approved at its first meeting. This is not

always possible. Pre-application meetings are welcomed, but most do not take advantage of this.

Discussion ensued regarding various aspects of the statutory procedures, including timing for receipt of an application and a decision on it, show cause hearings, public hearings, schedule of regular meetings, scheduling special meetings, and abutter notifications. The agency also reviewed the contents of a memo (attached) prepared by Mrs. Sesto to summarize the comments from various sources.

It was the consensus of those in attendance the benefits derived from a change in the schedule were not sufficient to warrant action. Further, staff was directed to more prudently utilize special meetings to accommodate controversial applications and public hearings which take up too much time during regular meetings. The Cone Room is currently reserved for the second Monday of each month to allow for such the extra meetings.

IV. Other Business

None

V. Public Comment

No public was in attendance.

VI. Adjourn

With the business stated on the agenda completed, the meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.