

EAST LYME INLAND WETLANDS AGENCY
SPECIAL MEETING OF AUGUST 31, 2016

Present: Cheryl Lozanov, Chairwomen
Chuck Reluga, Vice Chairman
Phyllis Berger
Harold Clarke
Kim Kalajainen, Alternate

FILED

Sept 7 2016 AT 10:00 AM/PM
(Clementine, Clerk)
EAST LYME TOWN CLERK

Absent: Norman Bender
Keith Hall
David Pazzaglia

CALL TO ORDER: Chairwomen Lozanov called the East Lyme Inland Wetlands Agency Special Meeting of August 31, 2016 to order at 7:02 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE. The Pledge of Allegiance was observed.

1. NEW BUSINESS

A. West Society Road; Discuss the repeated erosion of the unimproved gravel portion of the road in the Upland Review Area of West Society Road.

Ms. Lozanov stated we are here to discuss the potential violation as a result of Town activities performed on the unfinished portion of West Society Road. The activity began almost two months ago and entailed the placing of gravel and asphalt millings along the road. Due to a heavy rain event, much of it went into the catch basins which discharge into a draining basin on North Bridebrook Road.

Mr. Goeschel reported as of August 22nd he sent an email to members of the Commission regarding the status of this area. According to Mr. Goeschel, as of August 22nd, the Town has taken the following actions to correct the issue(s):

1. Swept the street from Coach Drive to N. Bridebrook,
2. Cleaned out the 3 catch basins along West Society Road,
3. Pulled back the windrows of excess millings back into the road; and
4. Removed the stockpiles of millings which were left along the shoulders of the road.

Ms. Lozanov indicated there is still some asphalt millings around the catch basin at the intersection of Coach and W. Society Rd.

Ms. Lozanov also observed when they cleared along the unfinished portion a good amount of the debris went into the wetlands area. In an area where a tree trunk came down they put gravel which blocks the flow of runoff across the road.

Mr. Goeschel stated they have used gravel in the past. The plan going forward is to maintain ownership of the right-of-way. He indicated he was currently working with the Town Engineer and DPW on developing a long term solution to the erosion issue. If closing the road becomes an option, the Town Engineer and he discussed 1) constructing a couple of water bars on the steepest portions of the road to control runoff and install water bars to control runoff; 2) to install a small detention basin at the intersection of West Society Road and Coach Drive provided the Selectmen discontinue use.

Ms. Lozanov was under the understanding that the Board of Selectman wanted this area to be returned to open space. Mr. Goeschel stated there is a conservation easement on the east side of the road. The road right-of-way is not classified as open space.

Mr. Goeschel stated after discussion with the Department of Public Works, we would look into stopping use the road but, maintain ownership of the right-of-way. Town Counsel is reviewing what is necessary in order to do that. His intent is to continue this matter at the September 12 meeting with an application. Ms. Lozanov would like the Town to come before the Commission.

Ms. Lozanov stated she is concerned that there is fill material around the tree trunks and there is still gravel and millings around the catch basin. Mr. Goeschel reported crews have been out there three times in the last year.

Mr. Reluga asked if there were catch basins.

Mr. Goeschel reported at the end in the unfinished portion and West Society Road there is a catch basin. There is another at the shoulder of West Society and West Bridebrook roads. They all have been cleaned out.

Ms. Kalajainen asked when a violation occurs is anything done? Mr. Goeschel responded that if vegetation is cleared he would look to possibly revegetate or if wetlands are filled then removing the fill and reestablishing the wetland. Ms. Berger asked what are water bars? Mr. Goeschel stated they are like a log placed on an angle and filled over to divert water. He stated they are typically used on hiking trails.

Ms. Lozanov felt it may have been be a violation. Mr. Goeschel replied they will come to this Commission with an application for an after the fact permit.

**MOTION: Mr. Clarke moved to adjourn the August 31, 2016
East Lyme Inland Wetlands Agency Special
Meeting at 7:25 p.m. Seconded by Mr. Reluga.
(4-0) Unanimous.**

Respectfully submitted,

Frances Gheri, Recording Secretary