

**ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION BOARD  
CITY OF STAMFORD  
FINAL MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 17, 2022  
REGULAR MEETING  
CONDUCTED VIA INTERNET AND CONFERENCE CALL**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Gary H. Stone, Chairman  
Joseph Todd Gambino, Member  
Dr. Leigh Shemitz, Member  
Laura Tessier, Member  
David J. Kozlowski, Alternate Member  
Thomas C. Romas, Alternate Member

**MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:**

Stephen J. Schneider, Alternate Member

**STAFF PRESENT:**

Lindsay Tomaszewski, Environmental Analyst  
Lesley Capp, OSS, Land Use Bureau

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Stone at 7:30 p.m. Seated for the meeting were Mr. Stone, Mr. Gambino, Dr. Shemitz, Ms. Tessier, Mr. Kozlowski and Mr. Romas.

Mr. Stone introduced the first item on the agenda.

➤ **MINUTES:** January 20, 2022 (Regular Meeting)

The minutes from the January 20, 2022 Regular Meeting were **TABLED** until the March 17, 2022 meeting.

➤ **APPLICATIONS & PERMITS:**

**ACCEPTANCES/EXTENSIONS/WITHDRAWALS:**

**#2021-19 - 175 South Lake Drive-Lot 42 - Fairfield County Engineering, LLC for Laura Healy**

**(Withdrawn):** To construct a new in-ground pool, and associated fencing, equipment, patio, grading, drainage improvements, landscaping, and other related site work within and proximate to wetlands, a pond and Conservation Easement on property situated within the drinking water supply watershed of the Mianus River. The property is situated along the east side of South Lake Drive, approximately 190 feet north of the intersection with Wallenberg Drive, and is identified as Lot 42, Account 003-7980, Card N-009, Map 13, Block 400, Zone RA-3, and is ±2.029 Acres.

**#2022-03 - 165 Blackberry Drive-Lot 2 - George Bate:** To install a new generator and three 100-gallon above ground proximate to wetlands and watercourses on a property situated within the drinking water supply watershed of the Mianus River East Branch. The property is situated along the west side of Blackberry Drive, approximately 650 feet southwest of the intersection of Blackberry Drive and Blackberry Drive East, and is identified as Lot 2, Account 003-0891, Card N 017, Map 15, Block 402, Zone RA-1, and is ± 1.540 Acres.

**#2022-04 - 1349 Newfield Avenue-Lot A - Sterling Farms Golf Course - City of Stamford:** To conduct hydro-raking activities within and proximate to wetlands and two ponds on property situated within the non-drinking water supply watersheds of the Springdale Brook, Ayers Brook, and Noroton River. The property is situated along the east side of Newfield Avenue, approximately 50 east of the intersection of Newfield Avenue and Newfield Drive, and is identified as Lot A, Account 002-6063, Card E 073, Map 78, Block 380, Zone P, and is  $\pm$  132.500 Acres.

**Discussion:** Mr. Stone acknowledged the withdrawal of EPB Permit Application #2021-19 and the receipt of the minimum information necessary to accept EPB Permit Application Nos. 2022-03 and 2022-04.

**Motion/Vote:** Upon a motion by Mr. Shemitz and seconded by Mr. Gambino, the Board voted to **ACCEPT** EPB Permit Application Nos. 2022-03 and 2022-04.

In Favor: Stone, Gambino, Shemitz, Tessier and Romas  
Opposed: None  
Abstaining: None  
Not Voting: None

**ACTION ITEMS:**

**#2022-01 - 198 Cold Spring Road-Lot 2 - Taylor Sekelsky:** To install a new fence within the special flood hazard area on property situated within the non-drinking water supply watershed of the Rippowam River. The property is situated along the east side of Cold Spring Road, at the intersection of Cold Spring Road and Severance Drive, and is identified as Lot 2, Account 000-4531, Card S-130, Map 109, Block 251, Zone R-75, and is  $\pm$ 6,085 Square Feet.

Reference is made to EPB Agenda Summary Report dated February 11, 2022.

**In Attendance:** Leonard D'Andrea, D'Andrea Surveying & Engineering, PC

**Discussion:** A summary of the application was offered by Ms. Tomaszewski providing details of the project and impacts to the area from the work to be performed.

Mr. Stone asked the Board for comments and/or questions.

Mr. D'Andrea answered questions from the Board primarily concerning potential flood issues on the property.

**Motion/Vote:** Upon a motion by Ms. Tessier and seconded by Mr. Gambino, the Board voted to **APPROVE** EPB Permit No. 2022-01 with the 8 conditions outlined in the EPB Agenda Summary Report dated February 11, 2022 subject to the review and approval of EPB Staff.

In Favor: Stone, Gambino, Shemitz, Tessier and Romas  
Opposed: None  
Abstaining: None  
Not Voting: None

**#2022-02 - Greenwich Avenue & Washington Blvd. - City of Stamford:** To install a new pedestrian bridge over the Rippowam River within the non-drinking water supply watershed of the Rippowam River. The area of work is situated between Greenwich Avenue & Washington Blvd. and is north of Pulaski Street. The primary address, 172 Greenwich Avenue, is identified as Lot C, Account 002-5965, Card E-020, Map 133, Block 18, Zone R-5, and is ±1.47 acres.

Reference is made to EPB Agenda Summary Report dated February 11, 2022.

**In Attendance:** David Ginter, Redniss & Mead

**Discussion:** A summary of the application was offered by Ms. Tomaszewski providing details of the project and impacts to the area from the work to be performed.

Mr. Stone asked the Board for comments and/or questions.

Mr. Ginter answered questions from the Board primarily concerning the removal and replacement of trees in and around the project area.

The Board discussed exploring the implementation of a standard tree replacement policy for all applications going forward.

Mr. Stone asked Ms. Tomaszewski and Ms. Tessier to further investigate the potential of a new policy for discussion at a future meeting.

**Motion/Vote:** Upon a motion by Ms. Tessier and seconded by Mr. Gambino, the Board voted to **APPROVE** EPB Permit No. 2022-02 with the 10 conditions outlined in the EPB Agenda Summary Report dated February 11, 2022 and adding the condition that the trees removed be replaced to equal the total caliper of those removed and to consist of native and riparian species, subject to the review and approval of EPB Staff.

In Favor: Stone, Gambino, Shemitz, Tessier and Romas  
Opposed: None  
Abstaining: None  
Not Voting: None

➤ **SITE PLAN REVIEWS:** None.

➤ **SUBDIVISION REVIEWS:** None.

➤ **SHOW CAUSE HEARINGS/ENFORCEMENT:** None.

➤ **OTHER BUSINESS:**

Mr. Stone read into the record a memorandum from Ralph Blessing, Land Use Bureau Chief, regarding the hiring of a third Environmental Analyst, Jaclyn Lange, as follows:

*Dear Chairman Stone,*

*It is my pleasure to inform you that we have selected a candidate for the Environmental Analyst position, Ms. Jaclyn Lange. This Environmental Analyst position is a new position, which will increase EPB's capacity to review applications and provide improved customer service.*

*Ms. Lange was selected after a thorough vetting process. We received eight applications, and based on the resumes and other application material staff and I invited four candidates for interviews based on the ranking of the written application material. Ms. Lange was the top candidate both based on her application and her performance in the interview.*

*Ms. Lange has seven years of professional experience as a consultant for wetlands and coastal applications. She holds a BS in Biology and Chemistry from Nebraska Wesleyan University in Lincoln, Nebraska and an MS in Environmental Science and Management from Sacred Heart University in Fairfield.*

*I believe that Ms. Lange has all the necessary qualifications and experience and will be a great addition to EPB.*

*As required by Chapter 6, Article V of the City of Stamford Code of Ordinances, EPB Board approval is required for the hiring of staff. I hereby request the Board's approval for hiring Ms. Lange for the position of Environmental Analyst.*

*Sincerely,*

**Ralph Blessing**  
*Land Use Bureau Chief*

Mr. Stone explained this would be the same situation as approving budgets that are presented to the Board for review and approval.

Mr. Stone further stated he has been involved in this hiring process, agrees with Mr. Blessing's assessment of Ms. Lange's credentials and endorses the offer made to Ms. Lange.

Dr. Shemitz made the point that approving a hire that has been already made seems to go against the spirit of the Code of Ordinances and does not make sense to have a vote of approval after the candidate has been hired. Dr. Shemitz suggested for future staff hires that the Board receive information on the candidates under consideration and the Board vote on approval before an offer is extended and accepted.

The Board then had a lengthy discussion regarding the rules for EPB under the Code of Ordinances on hiring staff, voting on staff hires and the possibility of reviewing resumes before being required to vote on approval of such hires.

**Motion/Vote:** Upon a motion by Ms. Tessier and seconded by Mr. Gambino, the Board voted to **APPROVE** the decision of Human Resources, the Land Use Bureau Chief and the EPB Chair in the hiring of Jaclyn Lange as Environmental Analyst.

In Favor: Stone, Gambino, Shemitz, Tessier and Romas  
Opposed: None  
Abstaining: None  
Not Voting: None

➤ **ADJOURN:**

**Motion/Vote:** Upon a motion by Ms. Tessier and seconded by Mr. Gambino, the Board voted to **ADJOURN** the Regular Meeting of February 17, 2022.

In Favor: Stone, Gambino, Shemitz, Tessier and Romas  
Opposed: None  
Abstaining: None  
Not Voting: None

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Gary H. Stone, Chairman  
Environmental Protection Board

ACTION CODES - A\* = Accept, D = Decision, E\* = Extension, W\* = Withdrawn, AI = Additional Information, P = Pending, PE = Permit Extension, TP = Transfer of Permit, M = Modification of Permit. \*No Discussion Anticipated For These Items

cc: Town Clerk, and Building Manager