

DRAFT

**ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION BOARD
CITY OF STAMFORD
MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 8, 2024
SPECIAL MEETING
CONDUCTED VIA INTERNET AND CONFERENCE CALL**

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Gary H. Stone, Member (Chairman)
Laura Tessier, Member
Thomas Romas, Alternate Member
Stephen Schneider, Alternate Member

MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

Leigh Shemitz, Member
Todd Gambino, Member

STAFF PRESENT:

Robert Clausi, Executive Director
Courtney Fahan, OSS, Land Use Bureau

Chairman Stone called the Special Meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. Seated to vote for the meeting were Ms. Tessier, Mr. Romas, and Mr. Schneider.

MINUTES

June 13, 2024 (Special Meeting)

Consideration of the minutes of the June 13, 2024 Special Meeting was deferred to a future meeting due to the absence of a quorum of the members who were present at the Special Meeting.

July 18, 2024 (Regular Meeting)

The Board considered the minutes of the July 18, 2024 Regular Meeting. Members who were present at that meeting and eligible to vote were Mr. Stone, Ms. Tessier, Mr. Romas, and Mr. Schneider. No modifications were recommended.

Motion/Vote: Upon a motion by Ms. Tessier and second by Mr. Romas, the Board voted to ACCEPT the Regular Meeting Minutes of July 18, 2024.

In Favor: Stone, Tessier, Romas, and Schneider
Opposed / Abstaining / Not Voting: None

Action Items

#2024-12 – 648 Westover Road – Aleksandra Moch for 0Westover LLC

Construct single-family residence, driveway, septic and drainage systems

In Attendance: Scott Androvic, Owner

Mr. Clausi began his summary of the Supplemental Agenda Summary Report that was prepared by Environmental Analyst Jaclyn Chapman by noting that at the end of the Board's initial consideration of this application at its July 28, 2024 meeting there were a half dozen outstanding issues that the Board

felt the applicant needed to supply to the Board before it could render a decision on the application. Mr. Clausi went through these items and the substantive responses that had been provided by the applicant. Mr. Clausi concluded by stating Ms. Chapman report includes 15 recommended conditions of approval.

Mr. Stone then asked the members if they had any questions, comments, or concerns. Hearing none, Mr. Stone asked the applicant, Mr. Androvic, if he had received the Supplemental Agenda Summary Report and if he had any concerns about its contents or recommended conditions of approval. When Mr. Androvic responded that he had not received the report, the recommended conditions were read aloud to him. Mr. Androvic had no questions or concerns with the recommendations.

Hearing no further comments, Mr. Stone asked for a motion from the Board.

Motion/Vote: Upon a motion by Ms. Tessier and second by Mr. Schneider, the Board voted to APPROVE EPB Application #2024-12 with the 15 recommended conditions of approval contained in the Supplemental Agenda Summary Report dated August 2, 2024.

In Favor: Stone, Tessier, Romas, and Schneider
Opposed/ Abstaining/ Not Voting: None

#2024-13 – 0 Merriebrook Lane (Mianus River Park) – Mianus Chapter of Trout Unlimited

Stream channel enhancement of a 4,500 linear foot reach of the Mianus River

In Attendance: Gerald Berrafati, Mianus Chapter of Trout Unlimited

Mr. Clausi summarized his Agenda Summary Report and pointed out that both the Inland Wetland & Watercourse Regulations and the Flood Prone Area Regulations apply to this project. He said that the applicant has obtained a permit for the in-water excavation and filling work from the US Army Corps of Engineers and a letter of concurrence from the Connecticut Department of Energy & Environmental Protection. Mr. Clausi stated that he walked the project area with the applicant and their consultant/contractor, Trout Scapes River Restoration LLC, and determined there are no tributaries to the Mianus River or apparent wetlands in the areas where equipment and materials will be brought down to the river from the main access way, which is an existing fire safety road. He continued that because the trees that will be used to reinforce erosion-prone areas at the bends of the river will be brought from off site rather than cut on site, the applicant is not proposing to conduct any regulated activities beyond those that are covered by the USACE permit.

Mr. Clausi noted that project activities are not only proposed to occur on City-owned property, but also on portions of seven private properties. Consent letters from the City and five of the private property owners have been obtained and similar consent must be obtained from the other two owners before any work is done on their properties.

In conclusion, Mr. Clausi stated this project appears to conform to the requirements of a section 3.3 wetlands exemption, but if the Board felt a wetlands permit is required it can issue a permit without special conditions because the conditions of the USACE permit cover what it would include in a standalone permit. He also recommended that if the Board issues a Flood Prone Area Permit a condition requiring submission of a no-rise certification acceptable to the Stamford Engineering Bureau be added to the six conditions provided in the Agenda Summary Report.

Motion/Vote: In regard to the Inland Wetland & Watercourses Regulations, Ms. Tessier made a motion, seconded by Mr. Romas, that the Board acknowledge the activities outlined in EPB Application #2024-13 are permitted as non-regulated uses per section 3.3.a. of the Stamford Inland Wetland & Watercourses Regulations

In Favor: Stone, Tessier, Romas, and Schneider
Opposed/ Abstaining/ Not Voting: None

Mr. Stone then asked the applicant, Mr. Berrafati, if he had received the Agenda Summary Report and if he had any concerns about its contents or recommended conditions for flood prone area permit approval. Mr. Berrafati responded he had not received the report, so Mr. Stone had Mr. Clausi read aloud the conditions recommended in the report plus the additional seventh condition. Mr. Berrafati then stated he had no questions or concerns with the recommendations.

Mr. Stone asked for a motion regarding the flood prone area regulations.

Motion/Vote: In regard to the Flood Prone Area Regulations, upon a motion by Ms. Tessier and second by Mr. Romas, the Board voted to issue a Flood Prone Area Permit with the six recommended conditions of approval contained in the Agenda Summary Report dated August 2, 2024, plus the addition condition that no in-water work may begin until a no-rise certification is submitted and has been approved by the Stamford Engineering Bureau.

In Favor: Stone, Tessier, Romas, and Schneider
Opposed/ Abstaining/ Not Voting: None

ADJOURN:

Motion/Vote: Upon a motion by Mr. Romas and second by Mr. Schneider, the Board voted to ADJOURN the Special Meeting of August 8, 2024.

In Favor: Stone, Tessier, Romas, Schneider
Opposed / Abstaining / Not Voting: None

The meeting was adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Gary H. Stone, Chairman
Stamford Environmental Protection Board