

Brooklyn Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission
Regular Meeting Minutes
June 11, 2019

The Brooklyn Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission held a regular meeting on Tuesday, June 11, 2019 on the following:

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 6:01 p.m.

Members Present: Jeffrey Arends, Demian Sorrentino, James Paquin, Richard Oliverson.

Absent: George Sipila with notice.

Staff Present: Margaret Washburn, Wetlands Agent, Audrey Cross-Lussier, Recording Secretary, Rick Ives, First Selectman.

Also Present: David Held, Aaron Kerouac.

Roll Call: All members present stated their name for the record.

Seating of Alternates: None.

Public Hearings: None.

Additions to Agenda: (See New Business)

Approval of Minutes:

1. **Regular Meeting Minutes May 14, 2019.** The minutes are accepted as written with no changes.

Old Business:

1. **051419B Town of Brooklyn, Elliott Road at Sandy Brook; Replacement of a structurally deficient bridge with counter sunk box culvert.**

David Held, P.E. from Provost and Rovero represents the applicant. Mr. Ives, First Selectman is also present. The project is for the Town of Brooklyn. Mr. Held reviews the plan with Commission Members. The existing bridge has a 14-foot wide hydraulic opening. The bridge was constructed approximately 1940. The bridge is structurally deficient and falling apart.

The girders underneath have rusted through and a section lost in some parts, the abutments are falling apart. A copy of the local bridge program inspection report from 2017 highlighted the structural deficiencies with recommendations made that the Town do something to rehabilitate or replace the structure. A couple of alternatives were looked at, one being the countersunk box culvert which was felt the most feasible and prudent alternative. They also looked at the possibility of removing the superstructure and doing a pre-engineered deck system on top of the existing abutments with structural repairs to the abutments, however, it became obvious they are in such poor shape the countersunk box culvert was the alternative chosen. The new structure will provide the same hydraulic opening which safely passes a 100-year storm without any conflicts from the whole cord of the bridge structure. About 500 square feet of temporary wetlands disturbance is basically the footprint of the box itself, plus a little bit on the side for the demoing of the existing abutments. There will be some excavation for the head walls and the wing walls. Mr. Held demonstrates this on the site plan and discusses with Commission Members. They are matching the flare with the new wing walls to match the old abutments and keeping the same hydraulic characteristics at the inlet side. They are providing some flares on the wing walls on the outlet side so they may grade down to the stream better. There is a large maple tree on the right of way line, grown into one of the abutments, which will be removed. Mr. Held reviews the cross-section view of the proposed bridge with Commission Members. The countersink will allow a natural invert into the box and the 12-inch countersinking is consistent with what the Army Corps of Engineers requires to keep this an unreported activity. They are able to match the existing road elevation with top of the structure, so they do not have to extend the pavement or road work out far beyond where the structure is, they are matching existing grades. The intention is to do this in an unconfined condition rather than putting up coffer dams and dewatering. With the precast structure, they can take out the old abutments, level out an area in the stream during a low flow period if they need to place crush stone to level it out. The time period where they will be working in or around the stream may be about one week.

Mr. Sorrentino asked if the Town will be doing the work. Mr. Held stated the Town will be buying the structure and hiring an outside contractor to do the installation. Mr. Sorrentino asked if the material being excavated out of the stream bed for preparation of the box is going to be dewatered on site? Mr. Held stated it can be dewatered and installed back in the box. Once it is installed with the countersink, it will be a matter of weeks before actual sediment deposits there. Mr. Sorrentino asked if it is a gravelly type. Mr. Held commented yes.

Ms. Washburn commented that she had taken photographs today which are available for review. She commented that it looked sandy and not organic on the bottom.

Mr. Arends asked if this is basically a rectangular concrete box open on both ends, do they take a crane and drop it in? Mr. Held commented it is approximately 26-28 feet long, reinforced concrete pipe and will probably be casted in 4 or 5 sections. There will be a rubber gasket around the sections with a flare, so they slip into one another. The wing walls and head walls are all pre-casted. Mr. Arends asked what will they use to backfill the wing walls and around the box itself? Mr. Held commented more than likely an imported type of structural fill, clean processed gravel. Selectman Ives commented that the State of Connecticut has suggested that this be done for the last 4 years, it was then realized that there was no other choice, it was time.

Mr. Sorrentino asked Ms. Washburn if she has any concerns with the plans? Ms. Washburn commented no.

Mr. Held commented that the construction will start the beginning part of August. Mr. Arends asks if this is a low flow time of year. Mr. Held commented usually July and August is your typical low flow time period.

Commission Members had no further questions.

A motion was made by Demian Sorrentino to approve application 051419B Town of Brooklyn, as presented with standard conditions of approval. Jim Paquin seconds this motion. No discussion held. All in favor. The motion passes.

New Business:

Chairman Arends introduces Margaret Washburn as the new Wetlands Enforcement Officer.

Addition to Agenda:

A motion was made by Demian Sorrentino to add onto the agenda the appointment of new Wetlands Enforcement Officer Margaret Washburn. Richard Oliverson seconds this motion. All in favor. No discussion held. Motion passes unanimously.

A motion was made by Jim Paquin to appoint Margaret Washburn as the new Wetlands Enforcement Officer. Demian Sorrentino seconds this motion. No discussion held. All in favor. The motion passes unanimously.

Communications:

- 1. Budget update.** Reviewed.
- 2. Wetlands Agent Monthly Report.** No report given.

Public Commentary:

Mr. Arends commented that the project on Allen Hill Road and Ennis Road looks to be complete. Selectman Ives commented that there are a couple of punch list items left to do, a little bit of curbing, grading/seeding. It was inspected today after all the rain and looks to be doing most of its job. There is one driveway that needs to be dealt with.

Adjourn: A motion was made by Demian Sorrentino to adjourn the meeting at 6:16 p.m. Richard Oliverson seconds this motion. No discussion held. All in favor. The motion passes unanimously.

Audrey Cross-Lussier, Recording Secretary