

**WALLINGFORD INLAND WETLANDS AND WATERCOURSES
COMMISSION**

**SPECIAL MEETING
Tuesday, March 19, 2024, at 5:00 p.m.
4 Mellor Road, Wallingford**

The Special Meeting of the Wallingford Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission (IWWC) was convened Tuesday, March 19 at 5:00 p.m. at 4 Mellor Road at the head of the driveway area.

Chairman Jim Vitali opened the Special Meeting stating the purpose of this Special Meeting was for the IWWC to conduct a site investigation to observe existing site conditions relative to a pending violation matter regarding 4 Mellor Road relative to several unpermitted, unauthorized activities. He asked for the Roll Call:

Present: Jim Vitali, Chairman, Debbie Phillips, Vice Chair, Nick Kern, Secretary, Mike Caruso, Jeffrey Necio, and Alternates Aili McKeen, James Heilman, and arriving at 5:10 p.m., Mrs. Caroline Raynis

Also present were property owner, Robert Doolittle, and Thomas Daley, his engineering consultant, from SLR, and Christian Metzger, Record Journal.

Chair Vitali asked Mr. Doolittle to show the approximate property line across the driveway as it is a shared driveway with the property in front, 4 1/2 Mellor Road. Mr. Doolittle did so. Chairman Vitali noted that the driveway crossed a wetland citing the a 1993 permit approval for a gravel driveway crossing here. The driveway is currently asphalt. A large recreational vehicle was parked immediately to the edge of the asphalt driveway in lawn area which then dropped down steeply to the stream area below. The IWWC walked toward the stream in this vicinity and from this vantage point erosion was seen undercutting this drop-off below the driveway which the owner may need to address.

Moving toward the north, three small-diameter white plastic pipes were then observed projecting from the southern bank of the stream very close together. Mr. Doolittle indicated that he put them in ages ago to discharge what he believed to be drainage from ‘springs’. Ms. O’Hare asked the IWWC to try to determine if there was any evidence of filling or clearing in the Upland Review Area next to the stream. Chairman Vitali stated that probably not as originally cows grazed here, drank at the stream, and so they had kept it open.

The IWWC observed several large stone blocks placed in the stream along the western stretch of its bank in the vicinity of the improved yard area supporting a wooden footbridge, a stepping stone path and stairs, seating area, low wall and plantings. Mr. Doolittle indicated that the original developer of Mellor Road subdivision, Mr. DiNatale, had installed these blocks here in 1985 during the construction phase.

Mr. Doolittle then indicated that he had taken rounded stones (approx. a foot in diameter) from the stream and had installed them on the low lying banks on both sides in this vicinity downstream of the footbridge as observed by the IWWC to protect the banks from erosion during storms. Moving towards the east,, Mr. Doolittle showed the IWWC where the stream “jumps” its banks in significant storm events over the lawn. Three more white drainage pipes were observed in this area.

The IWWC entered the back part of the property (east) via the footbridge. On the high southern steep bank of the stream, the IWWC observed serious erosion and undercutting of the bank where the exposed root systems of several mature trees were in evidence. There were a few more drainage pipe observed projecting from the high bank here. Mr. Daley indicated that corrective action was warranted to minimize the undercutting, some kind of streambank stabilization treatment ‘just to hold it - not to riprap the area. From this vantage point the IWWC observed the abutting property to the east, 55 Kondracki Lane where the two existing (36” dia. and 48” dia.) culverts convey the stream flows to the subject property. The location of the approved third pipe to be installed under the Order was pointed out. The plunge pool receiving area was observed extending from below the pipes meeting the subject property line.

Chairman Vitali adjourned the Special Meeting at 5:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Erin O’Hare, Environmental Planner
Acting Recording Secretary