

**Inland Wetlands & Watercourses Commission
Special Meeting
Tuesday, August 3, 2021, at 5:30 p.m.
1468 Tuttle Avenue
Wallingford, CT**

MINUTES

The Special Meeting convened at 1468 Tuttle Avenue. Environmental Planner indicated that Chairman Vitali had conducted a site investigation at this site with her on July 21 and would not be at this Meeting tonight.

Vice Chair Deborah Phillips, acting as Chair, called the Special Meeting of the Wallingford Inland Wetlands & Watercourses Commission to order at 5:34 p.m.. She indicated the purpose of the Special Meeting was to conduct a site investigation regarding Notice of Violation - 1468 Tuttle Ave. – Dan Petrosky & Jessica Boudreau – (unpermitted forest clearing & fence installation in wetlands) now pending before the Commission. She indicated the Commission was here to observe existing site conditions and assess possible remediation options and then she took the roll call.

1. Roll Call

PRESENT: Acting Chair Deborah Phillips, Secretary Nick Kern, Jennifer Passaretti; Alternates Aili McKeen, and Environmental Planner Erin O'Hare, and property owners, Dan Petrosky and Jessica Boudreau.

NOT PRESENT: Chair James Vitali, Mike Caruso

2. Notice of Violation - 1468 Tuttle Ave. – Dan Petrosky & Jessica Boudreau – (unpermitted forest clearing & fence installation in wetlands)

Pool construction was observed to be underway behind the house. Ms. O'Hare explained that the proposed pool installation had been administratively approved subsequent to the last IWWC Meeting. As agreed at the July 14 Meeting, she and Chairman Vitali had witnessed a scheduled excavation of a test hole in the location of the deep-end of the proposed pool on July 21. The soil conditions were observed to be dry 5 feet down with fill soil observed in the top approximately 1.5 feet layer and the Chairman had granted administrative approval right there onsite for solely that portion of the pending application pertaining to the pool. Owner Dan Petrosky indicated that he told Ms. O'Hare yesterday the work had not commenced but the contractor then unexpectedly started work at 7:30 a.m. this morning. The pool liner was installed and excavated soil was piled up quite high around the pool area with silt fencing in place. Later, Ms. O'Hare instructed the Owners to have the contractor add an additional section of silt fencing on the south side above the wetlands and to 'toe-in' all sections properly.

The IWWC crossed the back lawn observing the exposed roots of several trees that had been removed from this area by the current owners to create more lawn area.

Commissioner Kern stated that IWWC placards should be installed in the lawn.

The white vinyl fencing installed without permitting was observed. The wetlands flags behind it in the forest installed by David Lord, Soils Scientist, were observed. A pile of cut tree trunks was observed deposited in the forest. Mr. Petrosky stated that he had removed some logs offsite a month ago. The IWWC discussed possible impacts of log removal verses logs remaining in place and decomposing.

The IWWC then traveled to the south side of the property to observe the open wetlands area - demarcated by small white flagging installed by Mr. Lord - which the Owners had stopped mowing per Mr. Lord's recommendation. This area was observed to be growing high and to be saturated.

Commissioner McKeen walked further to the southeast to observe conditions in the forested wetlands that are obscured from view by the vinyl fencing installed in wetlands. Ms. O'Hare indicated there was plastic trash deposited back there. Mr. Petrosky indicated he had recently removed this material from the wetlands.

The IWWC discussed options including the recommendation of Mr. Lord to remove the 7 sections of fencing in the wetlands and re-install that fencing diagonally across the yard keeping 25 feet back from the open wetlands. The Owners indicated they would prefer not re-installing the fencing here instead using a low decorative fence, a row of plants, or nothing. They stated they would not mow the area and did not mind the high growth. Ms. O'Hare suggested boulders to mark the line or, if keeping deer out was important to the Owners, then the installation of posts with high 'vegetable fencing'. Commissioner McKeen brought up the possible impact of removal of the vinyl fencing on the forest wetlands. Commissioner Kern stated IWWC placards would be appropriate along the open wetlands, especially important for possible future owners. This will be taken up at the Sept. 1 Regular Meeting.

Unpermitted fencing was observed in the distance on the abutting property to the south. Ms. O'Hare pointed to a property to the southwest where on July 21 Chairman Vitali and she had viewed through the woods wetlands violations that had been conducted which she has not had time to address yet.

3. Adjournment

Acting Chair Phillips adjourned the Special Meeting at at 5:59 p.m..

Respectfully submitted,

Erin O'Hare, Environmental Planner

Acting Recording Secretary