

**TOWN OF BOZRAH
INLAND WETLANDS AND CONSERVATION COMMISSION SPECIAL MEETING**

**BOZRAH TOWN HALL
1 RIVER ROAD
BOZRAH, CT 06334**

September 28, 2021

The special meeting of the Bozrah Inland Wetlands and Conservation Commission was called to order by Vice-Chairperson Charlene Lathrop at 7:03pm at the Bozrah Town Hall, 1 River Road, Bozrah, CT.

Members present: Scott Taylor, Chuck Mandel, Evelyn Brown, Steve Brunetti, James Sipperly, Charlene Lathrop.

Members absent: Jessica Carson.

Others present: Glenn Pianka (Board of Selectmen), Raymond Barber.

1. Quorum was established.
2. Public Comment: Ray questioned the SCCOG actions based on the last meeting. Chuck reviewed the events of the meeting for those who had left or not attended. Glenn reported on his conversations with SCCOG and their subsequent actions.
3. Discussion of the withdrawal of SCCOG Town Planner services to the Inland Wetlands and Conservation Commission.
 - *Jim asked about the Enforcement Officer Contract status and Glenn reported that it was ready to roll on an hourly fee basis.
 - *Charlene asked if Sam had ever been given a written list of grievances of concern, Scott did not recall.
 - *Scott outlined his background with this site, with the past enforcement officer, with his recusal actions and options and the difficulty with recourse with himself having to act as the enforcement officer in the absence of one. He admitted that the lapse into bad language was not appropriate and should not have occurred but that the underlying issues still stand and an appeal to actions would need to go to Superior Court & that wasn't feasible. He will be looking to P & Z to address some of the concerns.
 - *Charlene stated that the actions the IWCC acted on were not the areas of concern & didn't need appeal and that other issues could still be addressed in the future.
 - *The issue of the town engineer not walking the site for P & Z was discussed. Charlene reminded all that IWCC members DID walk the site, concluded that it would be more disruptive to remove the rock piles already under the cease & correct that are in the wetlands and that the best course of action to protect the wetlands was requiring the 25 foot buffer and adequate marking of the wetlands boundaries to avoid future disruption.

*Steve questioned again whether Sam had been given anything in writing and that if he had not, it should not be part of the issue.

*Jim went over what appropriate recusal behavior would and would not look like, that improvements in that behavior on Scott's part were needed, and that regardless of personal feelings, our staff should not be addressed with anger & profanity in public.

*Chuck asked about actions moving forward and letter of apology.

*Scott suggested he could step down as chair or resign but also suggested that the town land use process was in grave disrepair and that the IT infrastructure should get immediate attention so the interface between boards, commissions & officials was more functional.

*Jim suggested that Scott's 20 years of IWCC experience was valuable so stepping away from chairman was preferable to resigning.

*Charlene expressed that the hostile environment created was unacceptable.

*Scott reinforced his previous comment that it was bad to have reacted the way he did.

*Ev added that Sam's services and advice to IWCC were extremely valuable, and that we should do whatever needed to reestablish that working relationship.

*Chuck reinforced the importance of SCCOG's guidance & that we were paying for full services, not just patchwork so if Sam was not returning, someone specific to Bozrah should be assigned by SCCOG to step into Sam's position.

*Scott remarked that they were cordial to one another at the site walk on Fitchville Rd so felt they could still work together.

*Glenn shared information from the town attorney on chair positions for volunteer commissions, agreed with Scott's point about information & records access and asked what he should bring back to SCCOG next on this issue.

*It was the consensus of the commission that at our October regular meeting, Charlene will open the meeting in her role as vice-chair, Scott will tender his resignation as Chairman and election of a new Chair will immediately follow. Scott will write an apology to Sam/SCCOG that will be delivered prior to Glenn approaching SCCOG to request reinstatement of Sam's services to IWCC.

4. Public Comment: Glenn reinforced the records history & situation and hopefully future actions with programs to organize them better townwide. Ray stated that SCCOG's relationship & services with us were critical & Chuck agreed. Scott asked about forwarding his information on the 350 Fitchville Rd application to SCCOG rep prior to our October meeting.

5. Motion to adjourn (Sipperly/Mandel)

VOTE – 6/0/0 – MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Meeting was adjourned at 7:52pm.

Respectfully Submitted, Evelyn Brown, Commission member.