

**TOWN OF BOZRAH
INLAND WETLANDS AND CONSERVATION COMMISSION
BOZRAH TOWN HALL
1 RIVER ROAD
BOZRAH, CT 06334**

August 6, 2020

The meeting of the Bozrah Inland Wetlands and Conservation Commission was called to order by Chairman Scott Taylor at 7:17 P.M. via Zoom teleconference/videoconference. Scott Taylor seated Jessica Carson in place of Steve Brunetti.

Regular members present: Charlene Lathrop, Evelyn Brown, Scott Taylor, and Chuck Mandel

Alternate members present: Jessica Carson

Regular members absent: Tom Main, Steve Brunetti, Jim Sipperly

Members from the public present: Sam Alexander SCCOG, Town Planner, Carl Zorn, First Selectman, Katey DeCarli, ZEO/WEO, Nancy Hatch, Applicant

1. Review and approve minutes:

a) March 5th regular meeting.

S. Taylor noted that minutes were not received before the meeting. Considering this they will be distributed prior to, and voted on, at the next meeting.

S. Taylor suggested moving agenda item 3 to agenda item 2, and vice versa. All were in favor.

2. Appoint Wetlands Enforcement Officer:

S. Taylor made a motion to appoint Katey DeCarli, P.E. of Clough Harbor Associates (CHA) as Wetlands Enforcement Officer. E. Brown seconded the motion. There was discussion.

K. DeCarli answered questions for the Commission and discussed her qualifications. There was discussion about CHA also providing grant writing services at a future date.

VOTE – ALL IN FAVOR – MOTION CARRIED

3. Hear the report of the Wetlands Enforcement Officer:

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K. DeCarli discussed items in her July and August reports. The Commission was able to ask questions. Report items included: enforcement action for failing erosion controls related to the Route 82 utility main extension; Scott Hill Road town drainage project; and an enforcement action on South Road.

4. Review correspondence pertaining to agenda items:

There was none.

5. New business:

- a) Nancy Hatch, 420 Salem Turnpike. Construction of a stone wall or concrete retaining wall, and removal of vegetation adjacent to a pond.

N. Hatch discussed her proposal and answered questions from the Commission. N. Hatch has a retaining wall that forms a portion of the southern shore of a pond on her property. The wall continues in a course askew from the pond and N. Hatch wishes to rebuild a portion of the wall as it moves away from the pond, and extend the wall about 20 feet further to the west, as it moves even further from the pond. The wall will be about flush with ground level; however she will remove brush where it is overgrown water-ward of the extended wall and attempt to ease the slope in this area. N. Hatch has not hired a contractor yet, so certain details will be finalized at that point.

N. Hatch proposes to install a silt fence between the work area and the water. The Commission was able to view photos of the site and a sketch map of the property, including the existing wall, new wall, and vegetation to be removed. There are no mapped wetlands on the property.

The Commission was generally in agreement that this was not a regulated activity. C. Mandel suggested that N. Taylor follow up with the Town Planner or Wetlands Enforcement Officer to select wetland-tolerant plant species to stabilize the ground where vegetation is being removed.

C. Mandel made a motion to make a jurisdictional ruling that the activity is not regulated (no jurisdiction). C. Lathrop seconded the motion.

VOTE – ALL IN FAVOR – MOTION CARRIED

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- b) Discussion of process for filing/approving applications.

S. Taylor explained that the recent application by N. Hatch and others bring to light a potential need to consider an upland review area or better definition around application classes.

There was discussion. Commissioners spoke both in favor and against. The Commission directed the Town Planner to develop a flow chart or amended language for the wetlands application that would assist the public in filing for wetlands application.

- 6. Old business:

- a) Open Space Plan.

S. Alexander (Town Planner) reported that the Open Space Plan was scheduled to be completed in the spring but a public process and outreach to other Commissions was interrupted by COVID-19; therefor the plan is on-hold.

The Commission discussed the status of the plan. S. Alexander stated that he would like to reach out to other Commission and the public using an on-line survey. S. Alexander will also advertise in This Week in Bozrah. S. Alexander explained the link between the plan and grant opportunities.

- 7. Review general correspondence:

There was mail received from Eastern Connecticut Conservation District.

- 8. Such other business as the Commission may vote to hear:

S. Alexander stated that SCCOG received a grant to assist the Planning & Zoning Commission with an Affordable Housing Plan as required by State Statute.

The Commission discussed the status of an as-of-right activity permitted in 2018.

- 9. Public comment period:

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The Commission discussed the status of members. There is a need to fill a regular member vacancy and an alternate member vacancy.

C. Zorn shared his thoughts on processes and application requirements.

E. Brown made a motion to adjourn the meeting. C. Lathrop seconded the motion.

VOTE – ALL IN FAVOR – MOTION CARRIED

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted
Samuel Alexander, AICP
Town Planner