

MINUTES OF PORTLAND INLAND WETLANDS COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
Tuesday, April 2, 2024
Portland Library – Mary Flood Room
20 Freestone Avenue

1. Call to Order

Martha Dumas, Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:04 pm.

2. Introduction of Members and seating of Alternates

M. Dumas introduced herself and commissioners, Maureen O'Doherty, Nancy Breault, Margaret Kesler, Jeff Flynn and staff James Sipperly.

The recording secretary, Jade Clark could not attend the meeting tonight.

3. Accept Agenda

Motion: To accept the agenda as received. Moved by N. Breault; seconded by J. Flynn; approved unanimously.

4. Approval of the minutes of 3/5/24 regular meeting.

Motion: To approve the minutes of 3/5/24 as received. Moved by N. Breault; seconded by J. Flynn; approved unanimously

5. New Business

1. 238 Cox Road

J. Sipperly reported that he received a complaint from Melissa Kelley regarding ATV usage near her house and in the wetlands. There was a similar complaint a few years ago that was referred to the police department as a trespass.

J. Sipperly further explained that this problem is occurring in many towns in CT. The Middlesex Land Trust has been searching for a solution on their properties in the region to no avail. Discussion ensued. J. Flynn recommended that perhaps trail cameras can be installed. J. Sipperly will recommend this to the Land Trust and M. Kelley.

2. Permit Application for the use of pesticides in state waters – Great Hill Pond

J. Sipperly reported that this is regulated by the CT DEEP and they typically notify the local towns affected. This application was discussed by Rick Benson who formed a group to protect the pond. It was noted that pesticides will not be applied but herbicides to control the invasive weeds.

6. Old Business

1. Complaint regarding discharge of muddy water into Great Hill Pond.

J. Sipperly drafted a letter to be sent to the Sokoloffs by Certified Mail. That letter was reviewed by the Commission members and will be released after a receiving card is submitted to the Land Use Office.

Several neighbors were in attendance.

Mike St. Peter repeated concerns he voiced at the last meeting regarding the flow of water on his property and that the hay bales are not working.

Jim Steffman again requested that the swale be re-established and that the buffer area be planted per the Zoning Enforcement Officer's recommendations.

7. Reports of Officers, Staff and Committees.

None

8. Public Comment and General Questions

None

9. Correspondence

None

10. Adjournment

Motion : To adjourn at 8:10pm. Moved by N. Breault; seconded by J. Flynn; approved unanimously

Respectfully submitted by James Sipperly, staff