

**Thomaston Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission**  
**Meeting Minutes March 9, 2011**

**Members Present and Seated:** Joe Fainer, Chairman, Marissa Wright, Vice-Chairman, Jen Pacelli, Anthony Samela, Alternates Tim Clark and Bob Carr

**Others Present:** Jeremy Leifert, Wetland Enforcement Officer; Ryan Geddes, James McManus of JMM Wetland Consulting Services

**Members Seated:** J. Fainer, M. Wright, A. Samela, J. Pacelli, B. Carr

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**Public Hearing convened at 7:02 pm.**

**Agenda Item #1 - Continuation of a proposed combination of Thomaston Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission and the Thomaston Conservation Commission**

J. Leifert gave a presentation describing the functions and duties of the Conservation Commission, explained the adoption process of an ordinance to combine the two Commissions, and going before the Board of Selectmen to call for a Town Meeting for the residents to vote on the ordinance.

A. Samela commented that he felt there could be conflicts of interest with Commission members serving on both Commissions. J. Fainer explained that there would be five regular members and three alternate members who would be able to recuse themselves if they felt it was necessary.

**Public Comment:** R. Geddes, 296 Reynolds Bridge Rd., feels that the combination of the two Commissions make sense and feels it will make the permit process quicker.

**A motion was made by M. Wright and seconded by B. Carr to close the Public Hearing at 7:20 pm. Motion unanimously passed.**

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**Regular meeting convened at 7:21 pm.**

**Minutes:**

**A motion was made by M. Wright and seconded by A. Samela to table the approval of the minutes until next month. Motion passed unanimously.**

**Old Business:**

**Agenda Item #1 & #2 - Discussion of Cease and Desist Orders for Lot 62-01-32 Reynolds Bridge Rd. and 296 Reynolds Bridge Rd.**

Agent(s): R. Geddes, J. McManus

J. McManus discussed the information in the packets that were distributed to the Commission, which included a preliminary review of maps, JMM reports from 2011 and 2001, a letter from Guion Stevens from 1978, a letter from the Thomaston Planning and Zoning Commission from 2005, surface water documents, and Coneco Engineers water test results. R. Geddes discussed the improvements being performed without permits and having the site inspected by an engineer to see if the activity caused an adverse impact to the wetlands. R. Geddes explained the activity he performed, the activity he would like to perform, and problems caused to his property by activity performed on T. Bobroske's property.

J. Fainer explained to R. Geddes that when his plans are submitted to the Commission, they will be sent to the Town Engineer for review and that he will be responsible for their fees. R. Geddes told the Commission that the application and the preliminary plans will be submitted at next month's meeting.

No further action was taken at this time.

**Agenda Item #3 - Discussion of Cease and Desist order for 437 South Main St.**

J. Leifert reported that a new letter regarding the fees was resent to Mr. Kowaleski yesterday because the first letter was returned from the post office damaged.

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**Agenda Item #4 - Discussion of Cease and Desist Order for Leigh Ave. wood road**

J. Leifert received a complaint from M. Diezel regarding water flowing onto his property. J. Leifert reported that when he conducted a site visit, he found that S. Ingraham's tenant dug a trench to divert the water away from her property. J. Leifert will notify S. Ingraham of the activity.

**New Business:**

**Agenda Item # 1 - Application for Tree Removal and Driveway Permit at 423 Jackson St.**

Agent(s): None

J. Leifert reported that he hand delivered the letter to the house last week, but did not hear from the owner. It was the consensus of the Commission to have a Marshall serve the letter to the owner.

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**A motion was made by M. Wright and seconded by J. Pacelli to amend the agenda to add discussion of the Conservation Commission under New Business. Motion unanimously passed.**

Discussions continued regarding possible conflicts of interest and speaking with other Towns who have combined the two Commissions to see how it is working for them.

**A motion was made by M. Wright and seconded by J. Pacelli to make the recommendation of the ordinance to the Board of Selectmen. Motion passed 4 to 1 opposed by A. Samela.**

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**A motion was made by M. Wright and seconded by A. Samela to add the final vote on the RFQ requirements to the agenda under New Business. Motion unanimously passed.**

J. Leifert distributed the RFQ requirements to the Commission for review, noting that Section 2 was added regarding the need for the Engineer to have general knowledge of soils and wetlands mapping.

**Communications and Bills:**

J. Leifert distributed information he received from the seminars he attended and the new Habitat issue.

The Commission received the 2011 Municipal Inland Wetland Commissioners Training Program voucher for Segments 1 and 2, which B. Carr and T. Clark will attend.

**Reports of Officers, Staff, and Committees:**

J. Leifert discussed his staff report (see Attachment #1).

**Executive Session:** It was the consensus of the Commission that Executive Session was not necessary.

**Adjournment:**

**A motion was made by M. Wright and seconded by B. Carr to adjourn the meeting at 9:04 pm. Motion unanimously passed.**

Respectfully submitted,

Pat Santa Maria, Recording Secretary