



WESTPORT, CONNECTICUT

FLOOD & EROSION CONTROL BOARD

TOWN HALL, 110 MYRTLE AVENUE
WESTPORT, CONNECTICUT 06880
(203) 341 1120 www.westportct.gov

MINUTES

Flood & Erosion Control Board Meeting of November 3, 2021

Present for the Board: William S. Mazo (Chair)
Aimee Monroy-Smith
Robert Aldrich

Present for Department of Public Works: Edward Gill, Engineer II
Keith Wilberg, Town Engineer

Present for Town Attorney: Eileen Flug, Assistant Town Attorney

William S. Mazo, Chair, opened the meeting at 7:30 pm.

1. **15 Stony Point Road / Application WPL-11337-21;** *Application of LANDTECH on behalf of the owners, Encore Holdings Revocable Trust & Hunter Holdings Revocable Trust, to construct a new residential dock with a boat lift and a jet ski lift. The proposed activity is within the WPL area of the Saugatuck River.*

This application was presented by Tom Ryder of LANDTECH, on behalf of the owners, Encore Holdings Revocable Trust & Hunter Holdings Revocable Trust.

Per the chair's request, Edward Gill summarized the Engineering Department's review of the application. He noted that the applicant has received a Notice of Tentative Determination from the CT DEEP, and stated that he is in favor of approval. The applicant also noted that their approval from the Army Corps of Engineers is pending the issuance of an updated General Permit for the State.

There were questions from the Board regarding the depths of the piles that will be driven for the proposed dock, and whether they would be driven to refusal. The applicant responded that they would only require a depth of between 15 and 20 feet, which they do not expect will reach refusal at this location.

The Board went into Work Session. It was agreed that the following Standard Conditions of Approval were deemed necessary: 8 and 10. (Refer to the appended sheet).

DECISION: Proposed Project Approved, 3(Y)-0(N).

2. **5 Pebble Beach Lane / Application WPL-11404-21;** *Application of Achilles Architects on behalf of the owners, Jamie & Glenn Camche, to construct additions and alterations to an existing single family residence, including lifting the structure to meet FEMA requirements and constructing a new pool and patio. The proposed activity is within the WPL area of the Saugatuck River.*

This application was presented by Bill Achilles of Achilles Architects, on behalf of the homeowners, Jamie & Glenn Camche.

Per the chair's request, Edward Gill summarized the Engineering Department's review of the application. He noted that the plans meet all applicable FEMA standards and Town drainage requirements. He also stated that while no grading is proposed, additional spot elevations in the rear yard shall be added to the site plan prior to obtaining a Zoning Permit, to have a more clear depiction of the existing grades that the project will have to match upon completion. He stated that he is in favor of approval.

There were questions from the Board regarding the depth of the proposed pool and the dewatering plans for the pool excavation. The applicant responded that the pool will be between 6 and 7 feet deep to avoid going too far into groundwater, and that the rear drainage system will be installed prior to the pool excavation. Once the pool excavation starts, the dewatering pump will be discharged into a dirtbag to remove sediment, and the water will be routed to the on-site drainage system.

The Board went into Work Session. It was agreed that the following Standard Conditions of Approval were deemed necessary: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, and 12. (Refer to the appended sheet).

DECISION: Proposed Project Approved, 3(Y)-0(N).

3. **42 Burr Farms Road / Application WPL-11409-21;** *Application of Galt Renovations on behalf of the owners, Michel & Susan Nahon, to expand an existing deck and construct a two-story addition to an existing single family residence. The proposed activity is partially within the WPL area of an unnamed tributary to Muddy Brook.*

This application was presented by Jake VanderKamp of Galt Renovations, on behalf of the owners, Michel & Susan Nahon.

Per the chair's request, Edward Gill summarized the Engineering Department's review of the application. He noted that the drainage required for a deck would be 6" of crushed stone beneath the footprint of the deck, which the applicant does propose to install, and that the addition is 300 square feet, which is relatively minor in size, and would not require an engineered drainage system. As such, he is in favor of their plan to utilize a rain garden between the house and the watercourse, as long as any plantings in the rain garden are approved by the Conservation Department. He also noted that the 12" concrete pipe in the front yard that carries storm drainage from Burr Farms Road to the watercourse must be protected during construction, either with steel plates or another suitable alternative.

There were questions from the Board regarding the storm drain pipe and the proximity to the septic system.

The Board went into Work Session. It was agreed that the following Standard Conditions of Approval were deemed necessary: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 8, 9, 10, 11, and 12. (Refer to the appended sheet).

DECISION: Proposed Project Approved, 3(Y)-0(N).

DISCUSSION

Upon the completion of the Public Hearing, the Chair opened a discussion about the future of the Flood & Erosion Control Board.

Edward Gill noted that based on a meeting with the Fairfield F&ECB, the Fairfield Board finds more value in addressing specific flood and erosion control systems, rather than being involved in reviewing individual projects during the permitting process.

Members of the Westport Board asked if the Engineering Department has the staff to handle increased work load from more involvement from the F&ECB in flooding issues in Westport.

Keith Wilberg stated that while the current staff may not be able to handle increased work generated by the F&ECB, there is a real possibility that between the increasing public support for drainage improvements and additional funding becoming available, the Engineering Department may be able to expand their capacity to handle such work if it becomes available.

Edward Gill also pointed out that the powers vested in Flood Boards by the Connecticut General Statutes may be beyond the scope of what the Public Works Department could otherwise utilize when it comes to stream improvements.

There was a question from the Board about the latest Town Flood Studies completed in Westport, and their availability to the Board and to the Public. Edward Gill stated that the studies were completed in 2018, are available, and can be supplied by the Engineering Department at request.

There were further questions from the Board regarding the Board's legal powers, duties, and responsibilities. There was consensus among Board Members that it may be necessary to prepare an amendment to the current Town Ordinances in order to redirect the Flood Board to reduce involvement in the permitting process and get more involved in other aspects of flood prevention and community education.

Ed Picard, a former member of the Flood Board and current alternate, noted that while the past protocols of the Board were useful, it does appear that it is time for the Board to change.

Edward Gill noted that the Director of Public Works requested a proposal from the Board that details their goals and a description of the direction they want to take the Board. The Board agreed to set up a special meeting prior to the next regularly scheduled meeting to discuss further what direction the Board will look to move in.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

William S. Mazo, Chair
Flood & Erosion Control Board

WSM/eamg

Cc: First Selectman, Town Attorney, Public Works Director, Planning & Zoning Director, Conservation Director, Chair of RTM Environmental Committee, Chair of RTM Public Works Committee, Applicants, minutes@westportct.gov

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