

Town of Colebrook
Inland Wetlands Agency
Minutes for Jan 21, 2025

| Present Members | Absent Members |
|-----------------|----------------|
| Duncan Wilber | Bryce Zigmont |
| Dennis Gomez | John Lossin |
| Chris Gray | |
| Erich Fritz | |

Others Present

Joyce Hemingson
Linda Irwin
Will Sweeney

Meeting called to order at 6:30pm

Motion made by Dennis Gomez to seat Alternate Chris Gray for vacancy, Wilber second.

Agenda review

Group discussed and unanimously agreed to rearranging order of items to address Irwin's permit first and in conjunction with Positive Grounds "new" application, followed by Hemingson's presentation of Town plan maps

Old Business

Linda Irwin, permit number 25-001 owner of property at 164 and hired contractor Will Sweeney/Evergreen Construction, discussed final plans and procedure for requested pond dredge. Sweeney stated his plan of accessing Irwin's property with his excavator via Auclair's abutting property, digging said pond and stockpiling the silt/cattails, etc in area shown on drawn map. His stated plan also includes pumping the inflow of water (while digging the pond) silt fence installation on downstream side and final site stabilization (hay and seed/ established grass). The estimated time to complete work was 4-5 days. Dennis Gomez made a motion to approve the Application, Seconded by Fritz with the conditions 1)erosion control is installed and inspected by IWA agent and member before dredging commences. 2) Inflow is pumped during work. 3) Site is stabilized (seeded and hayed if done during growing season) or additional silt fence installed around pond (if dug during winter) and then seeded and hayed during following growing season.

In a corresponding move, John Auclair/Positive ground's permit, (working in buffer zone/upland review area) allowing for Linda Irwin to deposit pond sediment on his property was discussed and determined by the group to need only Agent approval. Chairman Wilber will sign permit with no fee collected.

Joyce Hemingson presented the Agency with maps that had been generated by her and the Conservation Commission that are to be included in the next Town plan of Conservation. Joyce spoke about the past 10 year plan and how with the use of a grant that was secured, additional maps and descriptions were created and will eventually be added. The Agency voiced their appreciation for the hard work of collecting the additional data and looked forward to the finished product.

Chairman Duncan Wilber recused himself from the four following applications. Dennis Gomez nominated as acting Chair by Erich Fritz, second by Chris Gray, passed

Other Old Business.

Duncan Wilber request for Jurisdictional Ruling, Agricultural use, Simons Pond Rd., lot 1

Duncan Wilber request for Jurisdictional Ruling, Agricultural use, Simons Pond Rd, lot 2

Duncan Wilber request for Jurisdictional Ruling, Agricultural use, Simons Pond Rd., lot 3

Duncan Wilber request for Jurisdictional Ruling, Agricultural use, Beech Hill Rd

Wilber discussed with the Agency his farm business and how over time, the cow pastures have grown in. The presence of invasive plants and lack of woodland maintenance are creating fire risks as well as the need for access to various parts of the properties to solve those issues. Wilber went on to state that removing, dead ash, rose bushes, and "tinder like" species has created new "green" growth on the property. Additionally, he shared that the crop rotations he uses have shown an increase in water holding capabilities in the soil, and overall better soil stability, thus protecting from erosion during extreme weather events.

The Agency recognized that Mr Wilber request were valid and unanimously agreed to grant his Jurisdictional Ruling, Agricultural use on said properties.

Approval of minutes December 17,2024 tabled

Motion to Adjourn Gomez, second Fritz, passed unanimously, 7:27 pm