

**INLAND WETLANDS & WATERCOURSES COMMISSION  
PUBLIC HEARING AND REGULAR MEETING  
MAY 13, 2014 7:00 P.M.  
WOLCOTT TOWN HALL, COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
MINUTES  
Page 1 of 9**

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**PUBLIC HEARING: #14-004- The Extension of the Walking Trail at  
Scovill**

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**Note: These are summary minutes. A tape recording of this meeting is on file in the Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Office, Wolcott Town Hall.**

Chairman Garrigus called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m., with the Pledge of Allegiance and attendance was taken. The legal notice and the rules that govern the hearing were read.

**Members Present:** Mark Garrigus, Richard Tucker, Brian Lanese, and Edgar Myers

**Members Absent:** Chris O'Brien and Bill Harpin

**Alternates Absent:** David Hamel and Ryan Bessette

**Also Present:** (Walking Trail Subcommittee): Steve Lagasse, William Tynan, Mark Possidento, Consulting Town Engineer and Mayor Thomas Dunn

Chairman Garrigus proceed to read into the record the Public hearing notice Also, he read the legal notice into the record (see attached).

**WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS RECEIVED**

There were none.

Chairman Garrigus stated that they will start with the presentation and comments from the Mayor.

**INLAND WETLANDS & WATERCOURSES COMMISSION  
PUBLIC HEARING AND REGULAR MEETING  
MAY 13, 2014 7:00 P.M.  
WOLCOTT TOWN HALL, COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
MINUTES  
Page 2 of 9**

Mayor Dunn was present and came forward to thank everyone for coming tonight. He noted that back into 2011 there were discussions regarding a major road construction project to go out to bond. Anytime they go out to bond they have to speak with the other departments. They met in the Mayor's Office and the Mayor has to bring it to the Town Council and the Town Council brings it to the people and that was the process for the Walking Trail. He pointed out that the Walking Trail has been discussed for years and prior to him being the Mayor the Walking Trail was put in on Wolfs Hill Road and they wanted to continue it around the lake and there were many discussions at the Acquired Facilities meetings which is now The Parks & Recreation and Acquired Facilities Commission. He stated that they talked about this for years about finding money and getting money to bring the trail around. He pointed out that they could read the minutes of the meetings stating to continue the trail around Scovill. He indicated that on July 7<sup>th</sup> the Town Council voted to approve the bond and there were many discussions with the Town Council members to discuss each project and what they wanted to do with it. He stated on July 7<sup>th</sup> a resolution to appropriate \$12,325,000.00 and it was read as reconstruction and repair of various town roads and roads side elements, upgrade to the Wolcott schools, water line replacement on lower Woodtick road, construction of a Walking Trail at Scovill Reservoir and to purchase a new fire truck, and to authorize the issue of bonds, notes or temporary notes and not to exceed \$12,325,000.00 He added that it was voted on and approved by the Town Council on July 7<sup>th</sup>. Also, it was published July 9<sup>th</sup> in the Waterbury Republican American just as a text here and explaining each project, and noting the referendum date of Saturday August 27<sup>th</sup>. The text was placed in the Wolcott Community News, on August 11<sup>th</sup> explaining each project and discussion. He also added that they spoke with the Town Council to develop a subcommittee and they would reach out to the people and go around to find a meeting place. There were informal meetings which he believes were placed in the paper and they didn't have to be posted because they were informal meetings only. Also, they had a meeting on July 28<sup>th</sup>, 2011 at the Company 2 Fire House on North Street at 7:00 pm. They also had one on Wednesday August 24, 2011, at fire house Company 3 on Lyman road and had one on Thursday August 25<sup>th</sup>, 2011 at fire house Company 1 on Central Ave for discussion. There was residents who came there and discussed each project. The referendum was held on August 27<sup>th</sup> and it passed. He explained that the Town Council had to put together a building committee for each project. The Parks & Recreation and Acquired Facilities Commission was named as the building committee for the

**INLAND WETLANDS & WATERCOURSES COMMISSION  
PUBLIC HEARING AND REGULAR MEETING  
MAY 13, 2014 7:00 P.M.  
WOLCOTT TOWN HALL, COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
MINUTES  
Page 3 of 9**

Walking Trail which then they set forth a subcommittee for that and the information that was brought to them which was \$350,000.00 for them to proceed with the Walking Trail around Scovill Reservoir and they had many meetings about that and now they are here at the Inland Wetlands Public Hearing because there are wetlands involved so they needed to hold a Public Hearing. Mayor Dunn also mentioned that they discussed staying as far as away from the houses and that was discussed through each informational meeting that they would work with the homeowners and this was talked about for many years that the trail was going to go around Scovill.

Chairman Garrigus asked Mr. Tucker to state what the commission would be looking for in this trail.

Mr. Tucker indicated that he wanted to provide as little impact regarding what is the most important criteria in elevating the impact that the walking trail is going to have on the wetlands. He noted that they would like them to address the following:

- 1) They want to see and are looking for a negligible soil impact.
- 2) They want to see as little impact on the environment as feasible.
- 3) They want to see there's going to be minimal trail maintenance and continued maintenance program when and if the trail is started.
- 4) There are diverse habitats or the users of that trail.

Steve Lagasse, 20 Cambridge Drive, Wolcott, CT 06716, came forward to state that he has been a Wolcott resident for 41 years and currently serves on The Park & Recreation and Acquired Facilities Commission and also I chair the Scovill Walking Trail subcommittee. He also wanted to thank the Inland Wetlands commission for accepting this project for review and holding this hearing.

Their objective tonight is providing a brief background on the project along with scope and the design of the work. They also will demonstrate commitment to mitigate wetlands and environmental impact.

He started the projector to show that they were working on this for the last two years (see attached).

**INLAND WETLANDS & WATERCOURSES COMMISSION  
PUBLIC HEARING AND REGULAR MEETING  
MAY 13, 2014 7:00 P.M.  
WOLCOTT TOWN HALL, COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
MINUTES**

**Page 4 of 9**

**PRESENTATION OR COMMENTS FROM THE TOWN ENGINEER**

Mr. Possidento, Consulting Town Engineer, of 18 Sunset Lane, Southington, CT was present and came forward to explained to the commission members the phases and construction details of the Extension of the Walking Trail and showed photos of the different areas of the trail and photos of construction impact. He also added that approximately 3,000 sq. ft. of wetlands will be directly impacted (Full presentation attached).

**ALL THOSE IN SUPPORT TO BE HEARD**

Chairman Garrigus inquired if anyone is supportive of this project would they please come forward.

Lisa Lawson, 20 Margaret Terrace came forward to state that she supports the project and she thinks it is great addition to the Town. She noted as a mom there are no locations other than Peterson Park to take her kids to ride their bikes and go out and explore the woods. She said it is a great addition for the kids and as a runner she doesn't feel there is a safe place in the town when she runs on Woodtick road. She indicated that she was very excited regarding Phase III to see that section on Woodtick along the road because it is not safe when cars go by too fast.

John Curley, 1181 Spindle Hill Road, stated that he is in favor of the project. He noted that he was a former member of Park & Rec commission and he wanted to thank Steve Lagasse for all of his work that he has put into this project and he thinks that the commission has tried to develop the trail in a way that it is environmentally sensitive. He thinks it is a benefit to the town. He noted that he likes to walk. He added that one of his complaints about Wolcott was a lack places to walk that are safe and he thinks this would be a benefit to the Town.

Tim Lambert, 19 Scovill Road, stated that he is fortunate to live right down the street from the reservoir and he thinks it is a good idea to extend the walking trail all the way around it and it is going to be beautiful but he has the following concerns:

- 1) Amount of traffic going down his road.
- 2) People who are going to be using it. There is no guarantee that these will be town's people.

**INLAND WETLANDS & WATERCOURSES COMMISSION  
PUBLIC HEARING AND REGULAR MEETING  
MAY 13, 2014 7:00 P.M.  
WOLCOTT TOWN HALL, COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
MINUTES**

**Page 5 of 9**

- 3) He is picking up trash after the weekends.
- 4) Is it going to be policed?
- 5) He requests a gate at the end of Scovill Road because people are going down there all night long and that is in his backyard.

Chairman Garrigus noted that safety concerns have to be taken to the Chief of Police. He noted that they are here for wetlands.

Dave Evon, 4 Split Rock Drive, he stated that he will very happy and proud to see that his town is placing a trail and that he and his wife and family friends travel a good distance to hike. He added that they do use the existing trails that are here now. He mentioned that he wanted to thank everyone who has been working on this. Also, he is happy to see that seniors will be able to use the trail.

**ALL THOSE IN OBJECTION TO BE HEARD**

Robert Warren, 125 Boundline Road, noted that he is not against the walking trail. He added that he has a couple of questions:

- 1) When they have a rain storm at which time he showed a picture from his phone. He said the water goes over the dam and comes on his side of the property and Brian Smails about 100 feet wide. It washes the whole area out. He pointed out in Phase 5, it gets flooded there.

Chairman Garrigus said they probably will have more boardwalks and it will be raised so if any water comes through it will pass underneath it.

Mr. Tucker inquired what is your concern; at which time Mr. Tucker stated that he and Mr. Garrigus visited the site and they rerouted that:

- 1) They wanted to stay away from your properties as much as they could.
- 2) To bring the trail through a less enviromentally impacted area, so does that address your question at which time Mr. Warren replied yes it does.

Mr. Warren said he can't understand that \$287,000.00 can do all five phases and to him it is impossible. He can't see it. And if they are going to use the town employees what happens to the town, are they going to be working on the trail all of the time.

**INLAND WETLANDS & WATERCOURSES COMMISSION  
PUBLIC HEARING AND REGULAR MEETING  
MAY 13, 2014 7:00 P.M.  
WOLCOTT TOWN HALL, COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
MINUTES  
Page 6 of 9**

Chairman Garrigus said you will have to bring it up with the Mayor. He also added that they are here to approve or disapprove where they will take the trail.

Mayor Dunn informed Mr. Warren that he could call his office.

Ralph Membrino, 53 Coe Road, stated that he has a couple of concerns:

- 1) Phase V Woodtick road a steep drop off from the road to the trail bed.
- 2) Stone Bridge on Phase 1 floods way past the wood chip area. He feels that will washout the stone.
- 3) Privacy with his property. He would like a barrier to be constructed for his privacy. He would like to submit a picture of his property (see attached).
- 4) Security of his property and safety of his property.
- 5) Vandalism and theft
- 6) Property values will be devalued.
- 7) Munson road bridge-public safety.

Mr. Tucker pointed out that they have 50 feet back from the water.

Brian Smail, 131 Boundline Road, came forward to inquired about the existing trail where are the plans that went through wetlands which would be part of the total square footage 5,000 which would have to go to the Army Corps of Engineering. He added that he spoke to them today. He referenced the original trail that was put in under the DeNegris administration and asked where those documents are.

Chairman Garrigus stated that it never came to this commission.

Mr. Smail said wouldn't that be part of the original plan of this whole new trail that would bring this over 5,000 sq. ft. regarding the impact.

At which time Chairman Garrigus stated it is not part of the new trail. He added that it is existing. He stated that he would have to talk to the ex-mayor and he placed a cease and desist on that project when it got to Munson Road. Chairman Garrigus pointed out that they are talking about the new trail.

**INLAND WETLANDS & WATERCOURSES COMMISSION  
PUBLIC HEARING AND REGULAR MEETING**

**MAY 13, 2014 7:00 P.M.**

**WOLCOTT TOWN HALL, COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

**MINUTES**

**Page 7 of 9**

Mr. Smail said his next question is the Quad that the town purchased. Are the bridges and walkways along Woodtick Road suitable for this all-terrain vehicle? He pointed out that according to the specs these vehicles are not to be driven on asphalt. What is the impact on that vehicle turning around in the wetlands? At which time Garrigus replied they will take that into consideration.

Mr. Smail stated that he is speaking about his property which me and you been there a few times and I have a letter that states that no one will touch the wetlands dated 1999, at which time Mr. Garrigus said he is waiting for the letter.

Chairman Garrigus pointed out that there are a lot of residents in town within the 100 foot regulations like cutting trees, brush and everything else which they are not notified.

Mr. Tucker said what came in before them is an application for a new walking trail. That's all they are reviewing and that's all that they will consider. Anything that has happened in the past or anything which is going to happen in the future is not of our concern right now. It is what they are going to be doing on this project to impact the environment is their concern. He pointed out what they are looking at is a proposal to put Wolcott on a map to be a better place and benefit its towns people. What their concern has been is the impact that private owners now who are living in Wolcott are having on the land that abuts wetlands, water body's and watercourses because they have been doing things that are illegal and it is a very difficult for them for monitor them. All they are concerned about is this application. And he added that what he would like Mr. Smail to address is what concerns that address this application only.

Mr. Smail pointed out what he was told the initial 5,000 sq. ft. no matter what was existing or preexisting is part of the total package of impact.

Mr. Smail pointed out when they paved his road he has a catch basin that the town missed by forty feet and he has two swales that he is dealing with that are draining into the wetlands with a catch basin with a culvert. He added that all the sand comes off the road.

Chairman Garrigus said this not related to this project. He stated that he is

**INLAND WETLANDS & WATERCOURSES COMMISSION  
PUBLIC HEARING AND REGULAR MEETING  
MAY 13, 2014 7:00 P.M.  
WOLCOTT TOWN HALL, COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
MINUTES**

**Page 8 of 9**

looking for his concerns, at which time Mr. Smail stated the following.

- 1) Bathroom on the walking trail
- 2) Impact with the Quad
- 3) Impact with cars in parking lot next to the stream

Mr. Smail added that he will submit any other concerns in writing.

Chief Stephens of the Wolcott Police Dept. stated that he wanted to explain about the Quad. First of all they did not purchase the Quad, it is on loan for a year, and if it works out good then they will purchase it. Secondly, it could go on the boardwalks, its 1,200 pounds and it's not even 5 feet wide. It will be able to drive the entire reservoir and go over bridges, so that is not an issue. He noted that officers are trained, they drive it around now. Also, it will not be an issue about reaching anyone that needs help.

Chairman Garrigus requested that they check on the radius. At which time Chief Stephens stated that if they need to get a smaller one then they will. He noted that they will do whatever they have to do to make sure that is a safe Walking Trail and other town; don't do that but they will. Also they did check on crimes in other towns Southington, Middlebury, for walking trails the only crime that they get is like people now in their driveways people breaking into cars. That's the biggest crime that occurs.

Dee and Michelle St Mary, 549 Woodtick Road came forward to indicate that something was just brought up about what happens if they run out of money when it gets to a certain point. He noted that his biggest fear is that they are at the end of Phase II which would be the start of Woodtick causeway or where the walking bridge is going to go. He noted that nothing on their property is affected by the wetlands. He is concerned that if they run out of money is that going to be the turnaround. He added that he doesn't want that to be a parking lot. His other issue is their view to the water. He also submitted a letter for the record (see attached.)

Chairman Garrigus stated that they will take that into consideration.

Sue Charette, 541 Woodtick Road, came forward to inquire if this is a walking trail totally or are they allowing dogs. She pointed out that they have a dog park now. She noted that she walks trails and she has no problem

**INLAND WETLANDS & WATERCOURSES COMMISSION  
PUBLIC HEARING AND REGULAR MEETING  
MAY 13, 2014 7:00 P.M.  
WOLCOTT TOWN HALL, COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
MINUTES**

**Page 9 of 9**

with that but she is concerned with the privacy and everything else. Also she stated that there will be an issue with people trespassing.

Chairman Garrigus pointed out that is with any town property. He added that they will address her issues.

Mr. Warren said he thought that dogs are not allowed to swim in reservoirs.

Chairman Garrigus said he's not in charge of Acquired Facilities so he doesn't know. Mr. Warren noted that the old Dog Warden came down. Chairman Garrigus said he will have to see what the regulations are for dogs swimming in the reservoir.

**CLOSING OR RECESS OF THE PUBLIC HEARING**

Chairman Garrigus said he is looking for a motion to close the Public Hearing.

Upon **MOTION** by Mr. Tucker, seconded by Ed Myers, it was unanimously voted to close the public hearing at 8:45 pm.

**APPROVED:**

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**Mark Garrigus– Chairman  
INLAND WETLANDS COMMISSION**

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**DOLORES DISTISO  
COMMISSION SECRETARY**