



CITY OF DANBURY
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ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT COMMISSION
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MINUTES
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT COMMISSION
City Council Chambers – 155 Deer Hill Avenue
JANUARY 23, 2019

ROLL CALL:

Chairman Bernard Gallo called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. Present were Commissioners Mary Cronin, Geoff Herald, and Matt Rose, Environmental Compliance Officer Joseph Mead, and Secretary Mary Larkin.

Absent were Robert Azud, Mark Massoud, and Alex Wolk.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Bernard Gallo.

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES:

Motion by Geoff Herald to accept the minutes of January 9, 2019; seconded by Matt Rose. There being no additions or corrections, the motion passed unanimously.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for **February 13, 2019**

OLD BUSINESS:

#1054 Luis & Jesus Panora, 17 South Well Ave. (H15058), Regulated Activity

Mr. Gallo asked Joseph Mead, Environmental Compliance Officer, if we were still awaiting word from the two attorneys. Joseph Mead said he had not received any updates since the last meeting.

Motion to table #1054 was made by Matt Rose; seconded by Geoff Herald. Motion passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS:

#1095 City of Danbury, Crosby Street Connector Bridge, Bridge # 06183, Crosby Street
Rehabilitation of Bridge

Thomas Altermatt, P.E. for the City of Danbury, presented this application. The project involves replacing bridge from Crosby Street to the shopping center. Inspection report from DOT said bridge has significant issues with the box beams underneath the bridge which support the deck. It involves taking off the pavement, exposing the box beams, installing new box beams and repaving the road, replace sidewalk, and parapet walls. Abutting walls on both sides of the stream are in very good condition. They do not need repair.

Geoff Herald asked about the 8” gas line that will be removed. Thomas Altermatt said there is a gas main that crosses the bridge, and it is in the sidewalk and indicated the gas company no longer needs that pipe, and they will abandon it.

Geoff Herald made a motion to move this application to staff for an administrative approval; Mary Cronin seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

#1096 City of Danbury, Triangle Street Bridge, Bridge #04073, Triangle Street
Rehabilitation of Bridge

Thomas Altermatt, P.E. for the City of Danbury, presented this application. The project involves replacing the Triangle Street bridge, which is close to Lee Mac Avenue near the intersection and crosses over the Still River. The bridge is about 123’ long. DOT inspected the bridge and found it to be in poor condition with numerous cracks, hollow areas, spaulding areas, etc. Water is leaking down through the bridge between the beams and behind the pier caps which will eventually deteriorate the bridge. Mr. Altermatt said there will not be any direct disturbance to the river during the repair.

Geoff Herald asked about the rehab in 1995 and what was done because the bridge was constructed 1960. Mr. Altermatt answered that the 1995 rehab of the bridge was substantial, and they are disappointed with the quality of the concrete. These repairs are not major issues per Mr. Altermatt.

Geoff Herald asked if the repairs would cause a shutdown of the bridge, and Mr. Altermatt answered that it would be closed. The target time for repairs will be while school is closed for the summer. Mr. Gallo asked how long it would take, and Mr. Altermatt answered that the digging across the road should take less than a month.

Motion to move this application to staff for administrative approval was made by Geoff Herald; seconded by Matt Rose. Motion passed unanimously.

#1097 City of Danbury, 53 Newtown Road, (L12014), Regulated Activity
Upgrade of Water Pollution Control Plant

David Day, Superintendent of Public Utilities, along with Will Walkup, from Black & Veatch, and Josh Weiss, from Fitzgerald & Halliday, Inc., presented this application. Mr. Day said it is essential to upgrade the storm water drainage so that storm water does not impact the existing facilities and future facilities. Will Walkup, Project Engineer for Black & Veatch, presented an overview of the project, which primarily consists of new facilities and upgrade of existing facilities to meet permit requirements and addressing the aging infrastructure. Existing headworks predates the 70s. The tertiary treatment facility and associated chemical building that removes phosphorus – to the north will be an intermediate settling tank. Impervious surfaces will be restored to grass. Geoff Herald asked if current wetlands were going to be affected by the draining water into them. Will Walkup said wetlands will be removed to install storm drainage system.

Joseph Mead explained the current wetlands were created wetlands from when the treatment plant was initially built. Josh Weiss, Soil Scientist from Fitzgerald & Halliday, Inc., spoke about the existing wetlands, which were created by sediment and discharges into existing catch basins. The wetlands are there because they exhibit the values that make them wetlands. Joseph Mead explained these wetlands are basically dug trenches to address storm water that was coming into the site. (inaudible section) Geoff Herald asked about the wetlands and what will happen to the draining water if the wetlands are gone? Will Walkup said flooding occurs during storm events, and these improvements will convey more storm water. Joseph Mead said that part of the natural drainage, historically, was changed when the treatment facility went in and whether it was planned or reactionary, it went from a runoff area and created a wetlands. Mr. Mead asked if the proposed plan would alleviate some of the erosion. Will Walkup said it would.

Mr. Gallo suggested tabling the application and working on a summary ruling and reviewing the materials. Mr. Mead will submit a Project Impact Report for the next meeting on February 13, 2019.

Mr. David Day said if we do nothing, then every time there is a significant flow, water will enter the plants. In the past, crews went out and dug trenches and monitored the flow. Storm water and debris cannot flow into the tanks because it impacts the processes. Joseph Mead will prepare a Project Impact Report for the next meeting.

Motion to table to the next regularly scheduled meeting on Wednesday, February 13, 2019, was made by Matt Rose; seconded by Geoff Herald. Motion passed unanimously.

#1094 Lake Waubeeka Association, 137 Post Road, (H22111, Paul Street) (H22054, Post Rd. Beach) Maintenance of eroded beach sand at water's edge.

Arthur Brody, President of the Lake Waubeeka Association, explained the Association is a volunteer board managing 262 homes with an approximately 40-acre lake, which they maintain. Because of excessive rains in 2018, they were attempting to reclaim some of the sand that had run into the lake. They did not realize permits were needed, and they are asking permission for this project and guidance for future projects.

Joseph Mead, Environmental Compliance Officer, gave the history that this came in as a complaint about work being done around the beaches and the lack of a permit, and he researched the activity and found there is a regulated, but allowed, activity for outdoor recreation, but he says that “the natural and indigenous character of the wetland or watercourse cannot be disturbed by removal or deposition of material.” So deposition of sand on the beach would be considered a regulated activity. Joseph Mead suggested a project impact report and Bernard Gallo suggested a summary ruling with conditions for the next meeting. Mary Cronin made a motion to table application #1094 until the next regularly-scheduled meeting on February 13, 2019. Motion seconded by Matt Rose. Motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC HEARINGS: None

APPLICATIONS FOR ADMINISTRATIVE APPROVAL: None

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF ACTIONS: None

VIOLATIONS: None

OTHER MATTERS: None

CORRESPONDENCE: None

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion to adjourn was made by Matt Rose at 7:34; seconded by Mary Cronin. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary S. Larkin
Secretary

