

**ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION BOARD  
CITY OF STAMFORD  
MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 15, 2020  
REGULAR MEETING  
CONDUCTED VIA INTERNET AND CONFERENCE CALL**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Gary H. Stone, Chairman  
Dr. Leigh Shemitz, Member (Arrived 7:46 PM)  
Ashley A. Ley, Member  
Joseph Todd Gambino, Member  
Stephen J. Schneider, Alternate Member  
Thomas C. Romas, Alternate Member

**MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:**

Laura Tessier, Member  
David J. Kozlowski, Alternate Member

**STAFF PRESENT:**

Richard Talamelli, Executive Director/Environmental Planner

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Stone at 7:30 PM.

**MINUTES:**

None

**APPLICATIONS AND PERMITS:**

**Acceptances/Extensions/Withdrawals:**

**#2020-23 - 12 Eastover Road – Lot 14 – R. Mazzeo and J. Mazzeo:** Installation of a sewer lateral within twenty-five (25) feet of wetlands situated in the non-drinking water supply watershed of the Rippowam River/Ayres Brook (Non-drinking water supply watershed). The property is situated along the west side of Eastover Road at the intersection of Intervale Road East, and is identified as Lot 14, Card W-001, Account 000-1354, Map 68, Block 338, Zone RA-1 and 1.0121 Acres.

Reference is made to an EPB Staff Memo, dated October 5, 2020.

**Discussion:** Mr. Talamelli acknowledged the receipt of the minimum information necessary to accept EPB Permit Application No. 2020-23.

**Motion/Vote:** Upon a motion by Ms. Ley and seconded by Mr. Romas, the Board voted to **ACCEPT** EPB Permit Application No. 2020-23.

In Favor: Stone, Ley, Schneider, and Romas

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Opposed: None  
Abstaining: None  
Not Voting: Gambino

Note that Board Member Dr. Leigh Shemitz joined the meeting during the discussion of 2020-01 (Modification) at approximately 7:46 PM.

**Action Items:**

None

**Site Plan Review:**

None

**Other Business:**

**#2020-01 – 212 Barclay Drive - Lot 20 – Anne G. Henderson:** To construct a replacement septic system proximate to wetlands and watercourses situated in the non-drinking water supply watershed of the Rippowam River. The property lies along the west side of the cul-de-sac of Barclay Drive, and is identified as Lot 20, Account 001-1524, Card N-013, Map 74, Lock 375, Zone RA-1, and +1.00 Acre. The matter has been placed on the agenda to consider a proposed modification of permit to allow for an alternative watercourse crossing.

Reference is made to EPB Staff Agenda Summary Report, dated October 8, 2020.

**In Attendance:** R.J. Gallagher, P.E.

**Discussion:** Staff Member Talamelli summarized the modification proposal for the Board. He reminded Members that this matter is a continuation of a discussion held at the EPB's Regular Meeting on September 17, 2020. Action was deferred to afford the Members additional time to review project details and conduct inspections as required.

The applicant requests consideration of a permit modification proposal (212 Barclay Drive, A. Henderson, #2020-01, 2/28/2020) to maintain a piped culvert crossing and relocate a force main in and proximate to a stream channel and wetlands at 212 Barclay Drive. Under the prior EPB permit, which was issued in February 2020, a temporary stream crossing consisting of a pipe and wood planking was approved to allow for pertinent soil testing and the replacement of a failing septic system in the northern reaches of the property. The force main was expected to be attached to the underside of an existing wood, pedestrian bridge. Upon the completion of the project, the temporary crossing was expected to be removed.

During the initial phase of implementation, and without a prior endorsement of the Board, the contractor altered the project by installing a pipe in the stream channel, constructing coarse head/end walls, and filling the contained space between the walls to create a more substantial crossing to support the excavator and other related machinery. It was further determined that the wood

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pedestrian bridge, upon its relocation, was unstable and would be unable to properly support the proposed force main. Modification of the permit is requested to maintain the 48" diameter "permanent" crossing and to allow for the burial of the sleeved force main within the filled crossing. The applicant claims that the alternative crossing provides necessary access to implement the septic replacement, serves as a permanent point of access should the system require replacement or repair, and affords better protection for the force main. A revised plan, culvert calculation, and planting/mitigation plan was submitted for consideration in July 2020. Again, the matter was given initial consideration at the Board's September 17, 2020 meeting. Following the meeting, on September 24, 2020, a member of EPB Staff, the EPB Chair, Health Department Staff, and the septic contractor met on site to review the project.

Mr. Talamelli asserted that the alternative crossing affects approximately 10 linear feet of the relatively narrow, steeply banked, and highly manipulated stream channel. Wetland soil areas are not affected. South of the channel, in areas adjoining the residence, lawn and other urban landscapes dominate. To the north of the channel, the area transitions from a near impenetrable thicket of groundcovers/vines to woodland. He stated that although somewhat ragged in its construction, the relatively large diameter culvert will neither adversely impact the function and values of the site's regulated areas nor impair drainage if properly maintained. The project engineer has confirmed the adequacy of the culvert, and those conclusions were verified by Stamford Engineering Bureau Staff. In addition, the project provides a more stable and secure solution for the force main. The main shall be buried, sleeved and pitched in a manner to drain back to the pump chamber to lessen the potential for freezing and breakage. Mr. Talamelli further stated that the overall value of the regulated areas can be enhanced with the implementation of a plan that provides for careful restacking of the stone head and end walls, the addition of a reasonable volume of rip rap or flat stones at the pipe's inlet/outlet for stabilization (per the engineer), permanent stabilization of the accessway surface, and implementation of a planting/mitigation plan that provides for the removal and proper disposal of the remnant foot bridge, environmentally responsible invasive/vine removal, and the addition of higher value, native plantings in select areas adjoining the culvert and channel. Details shall be noted on the plans before implementation. Finally, Mr. Talamelli stated that the Board may consider adding a condition requiring execution of a standard drainage maintenance agreement to ensure the function and maintenance of the structures. All other terms and conditions of EPB Permit No. 2020-01 shall remain in full force and effect.

In response to questions by Ms. Ley and Mr. Schneider concerning potential drainage impacts, the integrity of the pipe/endwalls, and the stability of the crossing's surface, Mr. Gallagher responded that the submitted calculations bear out the adequacy of the pipe to convey the design storm, that the pipe, when last observed, did not show any signs of disfigurement or warping, and that the head and end walls could be better organized, rip rap shall be applied to better stabilize the inlet/outlet, and the travelled surface shall be stabilized with vegetation or other similar treatments to promote long term stability. He did note, however, that filter fabric had already been placed over the pipes to limit the potential for settling and washout.

Mr. Stone confirmed the value of observing the conditions first hand, that the impacts of the proposal appear purposeful and acceptable, and that any future crossing deemed necessary to access the septic area would likely result in greater disturbance.

In response to a question by Dr. Shemitz, Mr. Talamelli responded that his analysis of impact would

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have been unchanged if conducted at the start of the permit process given the character of the regulated areas.

**Motion/Vote:** Upon a motion by Ms. Ley and seconded by Mr. Romas, the Board voted to **APPROVE** the proposed Modification of EPB Permit No. 2020-01 with the terms and conditions outlined in the EPB Agenda Summary Report, dated October 8, 2020.

In Favor: Stone, Ley, Gambino, Schneider, and Romas  
Opposed: None  
Abstaining: None  
Not Voting: Shemitz

**ADJOURN:**

**Adjourn the Regular Meeting of October 15, 2020:**

**Motion/Vote:** There being no further business, and upon a motion by Mr. Romas, and seconded by Ms. Ley, the Board voted to **ADJOURN** the Regular Meeting of October 15, 2020.

In Favor: Stone, Ley, Gambino, Schneider, and Romas.  
Opposed: None  
Abstaining: None  
Not Voting: Shemitz

Meeting adjourned at 8:02 PM.

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Gary H. Stone, Chairman  
Environmental Protection Board