

**NEW HAVEN CITY PLAN COMMISSION INLAND WETLANDS REVIEW
COASTAL SITE PLAN REVIEW**

RE: WEST RIVER (north of Blake Street), Inland Wetlands Review and Coastal Site Plan Review for Rehabilitation of Pedestrian Bridge in a Park Zone
(Owner/Applicant: New Haven Department of Parks, Recreation and Trees).

REPORT: 1472-01

INLAND WETLAND FINDING: Application Withdrawn

COASTAL FINDING: Application Withdrawn

BACKGROUND

Submission: Development Permit application including Inland Wetlands and Coastal Site Plan Review components and narrative dated 11/15/12; Coastal Resource Map, Inland Wetland and Watercourse Delineation Report by Stantec 10/18/12; State NRCS Soil Map, 3 Sheets by Stantec 11/15/12; Cover Sheet with location map, Existing Site Plan and bridge section, Proposed Site Plan and proposed section, details. Letter 12/13/12 from Stantec addressing City concerns, construction staging plan, detailed location map. Fee waived due to City Dept. applicant. Email from John Eberle, Stantec, withdrawing the application 4/26/13.

Site Location/Existing Conditions: The Parks Department proposes to rehabilitate a pedestrian bridge extending across the West River within West Rock Park near the center of Westville Village. The bridge is immediately upstream of the Blake Street Bridge over the West River. To the west are a park playground and an Early Learning Center at 495 Blake Street. To the east are parkland and Stone Street. The West River flows from the northwest through the park and under Blake Street into a contained riprap riverbed adjacent to the Wintergreen at Westville apartments. The existing bridge consists of precast concrete deck units supported by concrete abutments at the river banks, and two concrete piers located in the River. The bridge's original construction date is unknown. The superstructure (concrete deck units) of the bridge is in poor condition, with significant deterioration evident on several of the bridge panels, thus compromising the connection of the metal hand rail to the bridge. The bridge is now closed due to its unsafe condition.

Proposed Activity: The construction includes removal of the entire superstructure and replacement of the deteriorated and unsafe existing concrete beam deck with steel beams and new 1.5" by 5.5" composite wood decking. New hand railings will be installed. The existing piers and abutments will remain only with minor modifications to receive the new superstructure.

PLANNING CONSIDERATIONS: The City Engineer has recommended that the piers be removed and that the bridge be replaced with a single span bridge. As the project engineer states some additional analysis and design is still pending and as the period of time within which the Commission must act upon an inland wetland application, including a time extension, has expired on April 29, the applicant has withdrawn his application and anticipates submission of a new application and updated information soon.

INLAND WETLAND FINDING

Application Withdrawn.

COASTAL FINDING

Application Withdrawn.

ADOPTED: May 15, 2013
Roy Smith, Jr.
Vice Chair

ATTEST: 
Karyn M. Gilvarg, AIA
Executive Director