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TOWN CLERK

Town of Stafford  
Inland Wetlands Commission  
Regular Meeting  
February 21, 2018  
7:00 p.m. – Warren Memorial Town Hall

Members Present:     John D. Wilson, Acting Chairman  
                              Hickory Lake  
                              Rick Hartenstein  
                              David Smith, Alternate  
                              Kurt Mordasky, Alternate

Also Present:           David Perkins, ZEO  
                              Jay Ussery, Jr., LLS, J.R. Russo Company for Johnson Memorial Hospital  
                              Richard Desrosiers, LEP, P.G. GZA GeoEnvironmental for Johnson  
  Memorial Hospital  
                              Tony Armelin, on site engineer for Johnson Memorial Hospital  
                              Karl Riendeau, Riendeau & Sons Logging

## AGENDA

1. Call to order
2. Establish a quorum.
3. Review minutes of November 15, 2017 Regular Meeting
4. Discussion and possible action – Application of Johnson Memorial Hospital.  
Construction of Subsurface Sanitary Disposal System and altering a watercourse: 201 Chestnut Hill Road, Map 33, Lot 010
5. Show Cause Hearing – Riendeau & Sons Logging – forestry permit violation – significant impacts. Dunay Road Map 15, Lot 37
6. Other Business
7. Adjournment

1. **Call to order.**  
Acting Chair John D. Wilson called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Veterans' Meeting Room.
2. **Establish a quorum.**  
John Wilson established a quorum with regular members John Wilson, Hickory Lake, and Rick Hartenstein, and seating alternate members David Smith and Kurt Mordasky for Dennis Hodgin and William Dixon.

**3. Review minutes of November 15, 2017 Regular Meeting.**

Dave Smith made a motion to accept the minutes of the November 15, 2017 regular meeting, seconded by Rick Hartenstein. All were in favor.

**4. Discussion and possible action – Application of Johnson Memorial Hospital. Construction of Subsurface Sanitary Disposal System and altering a watercourse: 201 Chestnut Hill Road, Map 33, Lot 010**

Jay Ussery, Jr., LLS, of J.R. Russo Company representing Johnson Memorial Hospital attended the meeting along with Rich Desrosiers, LEP, P.G., with GZA GeoEnvironmental and Tony Armelin, on site engineer for Johnson Memorial Hospital. Jay Ussery provided a history of Johnson Memorial Hospital with regard to the ditch which has been referred to as an intermittent water course. He provided some historic aerial photos, the first from the 1970s before the hospital was built, which shows no watercourse, and then a photo from 1985 after the hospital had been built. (The hospital was built in the 1970s). In the 1985 photo, one can see the treatment plant and filter beds and also the ditch.

Jay Ussery said that when the hospital was built, a well field was installed and the water main ditch is where they dug a trench and brought the water main up to the hospital. He noted that the contractor did not do a very good job with compaction and this ditch continued to erode over the years, so that at this point there are now areas where the pipe is exposed. It may look like a natural watercourse, but it is not.

The presentation was then turned over to Rich Desrosiers, who explained that the proposal now is to build the subsurface sanitary disposal system in a single phase with eight pods rather than a Phase I/Phase II plan. Rich Desrosiers said this plan has been submitted to the State and they are presently reviewing it. The eight pods are the leeching galleys. He said their initial design was to start from the top and work their way down in order to continue using the sand beds. This new plan will have them working from the bottom and up to the top, building the system in sections, and getting authorization for discharge as each section is completed. The first sections would be pods 7 and 8, and 5 and 6.

After that, the next phase would be to install a series of tanks so that effluent does not have to be taken off the site. Then the plan would be to build pods 3 and 4, and 1 and 2. With 1 and 2 complete, the whole system would then go on.

They are seeking state approval for the sequencing, but this plan will have the same footprint, trenches, and grading for the most part. Rich Desrosiers said they are proposing rip rap to come down through the channel to dissipate water. It would work as a mitigation system. He said their wetlands specialist did some research and determined the ditch is not an intermittent watercourse, and he provided a summary of the wetlands specialist's findings, which showed the ditch did not meet two of three criteria. It is instead an upland erosional feature due to poor construction.

Rich Desrosiers said the grading might be a bit less steep, and that right now it is a 3 to 1 slope. Overall top to bottom it is 17 percent.

Dave Smith said that right now the ditch is not under control at 17 percent and this plan appears to make it 33 percent. He suggested adding a plunge pool or energy dissipater or check dams. Jay Ussery said putting in a plunge pool at the base could easily be done. Dave Smith expressed concern that their plan would put a lot of liquid directly above the wetlands. Rich Desrosiers said the deepest cut would be about 25 feet and that is the area they will build first. He said they looked at the infiltration capacity and are increasing the overall size of the leeching fields. He said because of the low permeability, they had to increase the surface area by about 63 percent to allow water to infiltrate into the subsurface.

Dave Smith noted that all eight pods are stacked up the hill and asked why they didn't make a broader spread and create a greater buffer to the wetlands. Rich Desrosiers said they looked at the effluent that will come out of the plant, and the septic field, and the infiltration numbers on the up gradient, and the flow passing under the leech field. He said the state has a calculation for their dilution model, and following that they will meet the threshold to protect the wetlands. He said there will also be a series of monitoring wells for quarterly groundwater monitoring.

John Wilson said it looks like they may have to do some work right near the wetlands and asked if they will need to get some equipment in there. Rich Desrosiers said they do not plan to move into the wetlands and will work with the contractor to ensure they stay in the upland area. John Wilson asked that because they will be close that they be sure to mitigate any disturbance.

Dave Smith asked if the hospital will be able to mow this steep slope. Tony Armelin said he is on site every day and they will maintain the property.

Dave Perkins asked if there are any wetland soils near the watercourse. Rich Desrosiers said their wetlands specialist has determined there is not.

Dave Perkins said the Commission needs to determine whether or not this is a regulated activity. However, it is clear this is not a watercourse per the criteria. He said they will need to redo the erosion control. Rich Desrosiers said they will reflag the wetlands. Jay Ussery noted the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection is reviewing the system design and they also have a storm water permit. He said they have a meeting next week to discuss the treatment plant itself with Dave Perkins and Dennis Milanovich.

Rich Desrosiers said they have approval for the two phase plan so they can discharge as they construct, and so they have work to do. They are just looking for approval on the sequencing. He noted that Spazzarini Construction has been chosen as the contractor, but that his firm plans to be on site about twenty hours a week to oversee the work. The contractor will also be attending their meetings.

The Commission also discussed the logistics of excavating, and hauling in and moving material on the site.

Dave Smith made a motion, seconded by Hickory Lake, to accept the plan as presented with a comment that the application is not a significant activity. All were in favor.

**5. Show Cause Hearing – Riendeau & Sons Logging – forestry permit violation – significant impacts. Dunay Road Map 15, Lot 37.**

Karl Riendeau attended the hearing and responded to the Cease and Correct order. He said he was on site over the weekend and took photos of his son and two other workers cleaning out the brook. He deeply apologized and said the site should not have been left in the condition that it was. He took full responsibility.

Karl Riendeau said that he started the logging operation on the site, then left after about a month to do other business, leaving his son with two others in charge. John Wilson said there should not have been any cutting up close to the brook at all. Karl Riendeau explained that a tree can be a good distance from the brook, but if it is tall, it can come down close. He said he had his son and the two other men work a full day removing debris from the brook.

Dave Perkins noted there is steep slope that has a large accumulation of debris at the bottom. John Wilson said they still have debris within 100 feet of the upland review area, and this needs to be removed. Karl Riendeau said removing it could cause additional erosion. Dave Perkins suggested he cut up some of the larger debris. Karl Riendeau said he would likely have to bring in equipment to do that and that could do more harm than good. Cutting up the material might make it easier to get into the brook. He said leaving some material there could help keep some erosion from getting into the brook. He recommended putting down some hay and rye grass.

John Wilson said he was surprised the landowner let the situation go for so many months, even a year. Karl Riendeau said the landowner had told him to leave the tops of the trees where they lay as he wanted them for firewood. Dave Perkins said the landowner made a complaint to the DEEP forestry unit and they did a site walk and then brought their findings back to the town. In Karl Riendeau's defense, Dave Perkins said he was quick to act when he was informed of the situation.

John Wilson asked the Commission what they felt the best course of action should be. He said they don't have to rule on it tonight if they don't want to. They have ten days. Dave Smith suggested stabilizing the tracking areas. He also suggested putting down mulch hay. Hickory Lake said they may need to bring in equipment to install a berm. Kurt Mordasky said they should establish a deadline, such as April 1<sup>st</sup>, to get the work done.

After further discussion, Hickory Lake made a motion, seconded by Dave Smith, to issue a revised Cease and Correct Order to place hay bales to minimize erosion on the track pad to the brook, and to stabilize the area with mulch hay and seed by April 1, 2018. All were in favor.

**6. Other Business**

Dave Perkins reported that the Conservation Commission is planning to build a walking path around Dennis Pond and they are working on a loop trail. There are some watercourses and they are planning on installing some courdoroy bridges and placing rocks in some courses so people can use them as stepping stones to cross the water. He suggested to the Conservation Commission that they submit an application and give a presentation to the Inland Wetlands Commission, as it did not appear they were aware they needed to take out a permit.

Hickory Lake asked if they planned to use any machinery/equipment for the work. Dave Perkins said they plan to do everything by hand.

There was consensus to allow Dave Perkins to handle this administratively but to make sure the Conservation Commission understands they need to take out permits for this type of work.

The Commission asked for an update on Joe Willis' project near Handel Road. Dave Perkins reported that he made a good road and has been keeping in touch with his office. He said Joe Willis also fixed a problem on Handel Road where water was sheeting and freezing over the road.

Dave Perkins reported that Dennis Milanovich had a meeting with TTM Company about the dam at Mill Pond. There is a damaged valve at the pond and they cannot divert water. This valve needs to be repaired and they will need to drain the pond to do so. He asked if there might be any issues he needs to address, noting they will likely need to talk with DEEP. Dave Smith said he did not think their Commission had any jurisdiction over this but that it would be beneficial if DEEP kept them in the loop.

**7. Adjournment.**

Hickory Lake made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Rick Hartenstein. All were in favor. The February 21, 2018 Inland Wetlands Commission meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Annie Gentile  
Recording Secretary