

Town of Stafford  
Inland Wetlands Commission  
Regular Meeting  
February 19, 2020  
7:00 p.m. – Warren Memorial Town Hall

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*David Mordasky*  
TOWN CLERK

Members Present: John D. Wilson, Acting Chair  
Tom Topping  
Dave Smith  
Kurt Mordasky  
David Belcher  
David Mordasky, alternate

Also Present: David Perkins, ZEO  
Paul Gladysz, property owner 140 Orcuttville Road  
Chris Mokrzecki, forest products harvester  
Public

REGULAR MEETING:

**AGENDA**

1. Call to order.
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Establish a quorum
4. Review minutes of January 15, 2020
5. Review and act on Cease and Desist – Orcuttville Road – Paul Gladysz
6. Adjournment

**1. Call to order**

John Wilson, Acting Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

**2. Pledge of Allegiance**

Recited.

**3. Establish a quorum**

John Wilson established a quorum with John Wilson, Acting Chair; Tom Topping, Dave Smith, Kurt Mordasky, David Belcher, and seating alternate member David Mordasky for Hickory Lake.

**4. Review minutes of January 15, 2020**

The Commission reviewed the minutes. John Wilson made a correction, noting Dave Smith is a regular member and that Ron Laiho was also in attendance and was seated as an alternate.

Dave Smith made a motion to approve the January 15, 2020 meeting minutes as amended, seconded by Tom Topping. All were in favor.

**5. Review and act on Cease and Desist – Orcuttville Road – Paul Gladysz**

David Perkins reported that Paul Gladysz hired a surveyor who surveyed the property. He said Rick Zulick delineated the wetlands. He pointed out where the wetlands are on the property and that it is different than the state map. This shows that the forester was not operating in the wetlands.

David Perkins said he had suggested they come back with a timber harvesting plan or a permanent plan. They provided a timber harvesting plan.

The Commission discussed how to handle the area labeled as a landing. This would be in the area past the big mountain. Paul Gladysz was asked how much gravel he would need. He was unsure but said Rick Zulick suggested he utilize it. David Perkins said it would be good to get rid of the knoll where the trucks will be coming through. Dave Smith said it would make sense to create an access through that area to avoid the wetlands.

Paul Gladysz said he plans to do that, but first has to pull out the trees that have been taken down in that area. He will run some black silt fence where the flags are, but he needs a little time to clean up the area first. David Perkins said he will also have to get the tops out of the brook area. Paul said it will all be cut and cleaned. He wants to leave the area in good shape.

John Wilson asked if he will be doing any more crossings. Paul Gladysz said there will be another crossing up in back and he will do a portable bridge. John said this is the first time he has seen a wetlands map so far off from what exists on the ground, and it is not that old of a map. Paul asked how this might impact him going forward. David Perkins said that now when he wants to put the road in, he'll know where to go. Dave Smith said now he knows where the wetlands are so they can factor that into his decisions and deal with any drainage issues. John Wilson said the soil scientist signed off on it, so that will have precedence. Dave Smith said where Paul was directed to put in a temporary or permanent road seems the right place and it can be the basis for any future improvement.

Paul Gladysz said he expects he will need to contact the State again, because his permit was only good for a year. David Perkins said he expects he could get an extension.

Dave Smith suggested that the area where the pond is be defined with more than just ribbons as soon as possible by getting in silt fence and hay bales right away. Paul Gladysz said where the corner is, in order to get materials out, he may need to move some gravel so that his truck does not sink in the mud and get stuck. David Perkins said they can work that out in the field.

Dave Belcher made a motion to lift the Cease and Desist order, seconded by Kurt Mordasky. All were in favor.

Chris Mokrzecki, forester, noted he is working on another property off Old Springfield Road which has a similar crossing in back, and he is ready to go there. David Perkins said it is a high-banked crossing not getting into the wetlands, and Chris wants to do a temporary crossing there. He said it is more of a bridge and they have some dying white oak that can be used to cut and cross it.

#### **6. Other Business**

David Perkins noted there is another meeting going on this evening with regard to State Line Pond. He said the pond is atrophying quickly and it is owned by the State Line Association. They are not a taxing authority and don't have a lot of funds to work with. He said they applied to the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) to do a pesticide application as they are trying to improve the pond.

David Perkins said he received a letter addressed to the Inland Wetlands Commission from DEEP relative to the Staffordville Reservoir dam. Stafford said the dam was in fair condition, but DEEP feels it is in poor condition and they drew up a list of improvements that need to be done. David said about 80 percent of those improvements have been completed in the last few weeks and they will be getting back to DEEP with that information so the condition of the dam can be upgraded.

David Perkins said the Commission discussed issuing fines for wetlands infractions, but the only way they can do that is by going to Superior Court. Additionally, if they are awarded the fines, the money goes to the State and not to Stafford. He said an alternative is a citation process where the ZEO can cite people and levy a \$100/day fine for infractions. Those cases would then go to Superior Court as well, and they can put liens on properties or even foreclose. In this case, if the award goes in their favor, Stafford gets the money. However, to set up a citation process of that kind, the town would need to establish an ordinance.

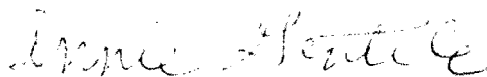
John Wilson said if they went that route, they should look at each situation individually. He said some infractions are minor, while others can be egregious and they shouldn't be treated the same.

David Mordasky said sometimes it is easier in a small town to simply bring an infraction to the responsible person's attention and combine that with some education.

#### **7. Adjournment.**

Dave Smith made a motion to adjourn, seconded by David Mordasky. All were in favor. The February 19, 2020 meeting of the Stafford Inland Wetlands Commission was adjourned at 7:23 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Annie Gentile  
Recording Secretary