

Town of Stafford
Inland Wetlands Commission
Regular Meeting
August 19, 2020
7:00 p.m. – Stafford Community/Senior Center

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Tom Topping
TOWN CLERK

Members Present: Barry Locke, Chair
John D. Wilson
Tom Topping
Dave Smith
Kurt Mordasky
David Belcher
Hickory Lake

Also Present: David Perkins, ZEO
David Mordasky, alternate
Kim & Karl Milikowski, applicants
Rick Zulick, soil scientist representing Kim & Karl Milikowski
Don Alberts, applicant
Mark Reynolds, P.E., Reynolds Engineering Services, representing Don Alberts
Karl Misuraca, 232 Old Monson Road.
Public

REGULAR MEETING:

AGENDA

1. Call to order.
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Establish a quorum
4. Review minutes of February 19, 2020
5. Wetlands application by Rick Zulick – agricultural stream crossing repair and installation of culvert at 21 Stafford Street, Owner Kim and Karl Milikowski
6. Wetland application by Hickory Lake – Pond Cleaning – 3 Slater Road
7. Wetland application by Jon and Carol Martorelli – Replace overflow discharge pipe from pond to discharge point at wetlands – 85 West Street
8. Don Alberts – 231 Old Monson Road – Discharge into wetlands
9. Wetland violation discussions: Williamson Road Bridge, Tractor Supply, Crystal Lake Dam
10. Adjournment

1. **Call to order**

Barry Locke, Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. **Pledge of Allegiance**

Recited.

3. **Establish a quorum**

Barry Locke, Chair, established a quorum with Barry Locke, Chair; John Wilson, Tom Topping, Dave Smith, Kurt Mordasky, David Belcher, and Hickory Lake.

4. **Review minutes of February 19, 2020**

John Wilson made a motion, seconded by Tom Topping, to accept the minutes of the February 19, 2020 meeting. Motion was unanimously approved.

5. **Wetlands application by Rick Zulick – agricultural stream crossing repair and installation of culvert at 21 Stafford Street, Owner Kim and Karl Milikowski**

Rick Zulick a consulting soil scientist for Datum Engineering and Surveying LLC, representing Kim and Karl Milikowski, reviewed the application. Karl Milikowski described their existing farm operation, which consists of two greenhouses for plants, flowers, and herbs, growing winterberry for the fall and winter, and the raising and selling of miniature donkeys.

Rick Zulick read his August 10, 2020 letter to the Stafford IWWC into the record. He said the Milikowskis wish to improve their existing farm road in disrepair to provide farm access to the rear of their property. The proposed roadway is approximately 200 feet in length and use of it will be related to their farm operation. It is not intended for year-round use, and the improvements will result in no hydraulic changes to the watercourse. No erosion of gravel is expected.

David Perkins noted that the applicants are looking for a non-jurisdictional ruling, under Section 4, Permitted Uses as of right and nonregulated uses in Stafford's regulations, based on the fact that it will be an agricultural road. However, he said because it is a bridge crossing a wetland, they are changing the characteristics of the road. Therefore, he feels the applicants should require a permit to do improve the road. He said he felt it was safer to regulate the work and grant a permit.

Rick Zulick said their proposal will not change the road elevation and there are no hydraulic implications. He said it is an existing crossing and a very unobtrusive road. He also noted there is no other way to get to the back of the Milikowski's property. It is a wet area in the back and they want to enjoy the use of the upland soils on their property. Rick Zulick described one alternative through an existing Right of Way, that all agreed was not a good alternative. He also noted the Milikowkis could legally bring in a log splitter and drive through with a big tractor, but did not want to go that route. John Wilson said he felt the Milikowskis' request was a reasonable one. Hickory Lake said their plan presented is better for the wetlands.

Dave Smith asked about the condition of the culvert and if they would be utilizing a silt fence. Rick Zulick said the culvert was in good shape and that they plan to put up silt fence on either side of the road. Dave Smith asked if their plan will preserve hydraulic connectivity. Rick Zulick said it would and that they expect to take out some big rocks to keep the elevation the same.

John Wilson made a motion, seconded by Dave Belcher to issue a wetlands permit for the agricultural stream crossing repair and installation of a culvert at 21 Stafford Street. The motion was unanimously approved.

6. Wetland application by Hickory Lake – Pond Cleaning – 3 Slater Road

Commission member Hickory Lake recused himself for this application.

Hickory Lake said that about three years ago he got a permit to pump the pond on his property and clean it. There is once again a lot of organic material in the bottom of the pond and he has found an organic sediment removal company that can vacuum it and the two springs using a diver-operated pump. He wants to be able to do this to improve the quality of the pond for recreation and aquatic life. He plans to install two silt fences to keep the material out of the woods.

Dave Smith asked about the schedule for doing this work. Hickory Lake said a tentative schedule would be for late September or early October; otherwise, in the spring. He said he would prefer to be able to do it in September/October so he can get the silt fence in. He expects the vacuuming to be about a four-hour process.

Dave Belcher made a motion, seconded by Tom Topping to approve the wetland application for a pond cleaning at 3 Slater Road. Motion was unanimously approved. Following the decision, Hickory Lake was reseated for the remainder of the meeting.

7. Wetland application by Jon and Carol Martorelli – Replace overflow discharge pipe from pond to discharge point at wetlands – 85 West Street.

David Perkins reviewed the application as Jon Martorelli was not present for the meeting. He said there is a pond across from the racetrack that discharges behind the soda factory and there is a wetlands stream in that back area. At some point the discharge pipe was crushed and it is not draining. The Martorellis wish to replace the pipe. He said the proposal will involve digging in the upland review area. Basically, it is a maintenance issue.

Kurt Mordasky asked if the replacement pipe will be the same size and type as the existing pipe. David Perkins said it would be.

Hickory Lake made a motion, seconded by Dave Smith, to approve the wetland application by Jon and Carol Martorelli to replace an overflow discharge pipe from the pond at 85 West Street to the discharge point at the wetlands. Motion was unanimously approved.

8. Don Alberts – 231 Old Monson Road – Discharge into wetlands.

Don and Tammy Alberts attended the meeting along with Mark Reynolds, P.E., of Reynolds Engineering Services.

Mark Reynolds said the proposed driveway on Old Monson Road serves three of four homes in a 2009-built subdivision. There have been drainage issues for many years where the driveway meets Old Monson Road creating water and icing issues. Their plan is to convey runoff down the driveway and create a roadside swale along Old Monson Road to alleviate the drainage. They also plan to place a new cross-culvert under the town road and they will need to run the grade out onto neighbor Karl Misuraca's property at 232 Old Monson Road.

Mark Reynolds said they plan to build an erosion protection apron at the outlet of the pipe, then grade it. It will run about 40 to 50 feet away from the road down toward the wetlands, and this will require some grading in the wetlands. He said about 125 feet of wetlands will be impacted by the grading. The culvert and the outlet and end of the driveway are all in the upland review area.

Mark Reynolds provided a detailed plan. He said he felt this will benefit the town by improving drainage along Old Monson Road.

Karl Misuraca was present for the meeting and Barry Locke asked him if he had any issues with this plan. Karl Misuraca did not and expressed his support and approval of the plan. Mark Reynolds noted he has been working with Devin Cowperthwaite, Director of Public Works, and they have developed the plan together. The Director has asked Karl Misuraca to provide a drainage easement and pending approval of the plan by this Commission, he will file the drainage easement with the town.

David Perkins said they have been working on this plan for about six months and that Don Alberts has bought three of the lots and has combined them. They are all rear lots that were previously created by a variance. He noted that Don Alberts did a lot of the site work. He said these properties were created as part of a subdivision so they never had any site plan level work done. David Perkins said drainage became an issue pretty quickly and Don Alberts put up a retaining wall. He said he feels this is a good plan that addresses the issue well.

Mark Reynolds said the area where the culvert is will be graded to act as a detention basin. He said they created a berm in front of the inlet to slow down water and retain it before it gets to the road.

Dave Smith said he was glad the easement has been expanded to the town as well, as the town has an interest and will then have the right to maintain it. He said it appears the trench at the end of the pipe may need to be reinforced. He said they don't have to necessarily install riprap, but the entire excavated area needs to be stabilized. They would not want it to become a structural liability for the town.

Karl Misuraca said he has lived at 232 Old Monson Road since 1985 and for about the last ten or twelve years he has found water bubbling up across his driveway. In the winter that changes to solid ice. He said this plan will eliminate that problem. It will make a big difference.

Mark Reynolds reviewed the erosion control plans, which will include stone barriers, silt fence, silt fence at the outlet, and a stone berm in the retention basin.

Hickory Lake expressed some concern about silt getting trapped and it being possibly difficult for the Department of Public Works to reach that area from the road to maintain it. Dave Smith suggested having David Perkins work with the Department of Public Works in the field to make adjustments as needed.

David Perkins noted the existing map is not updated with the new contours, namely the area to the north of the driveway. He also asked if the fifth lot will be using the same driveway. Don Alberts said it will be, noting it was purchased recently. David Perkins recommended putting

together a driveway agreement. Don Alberts noted his lawyer had said the general statutes state that if someone is using a drive, they are responsible for maintaining it. David Perkins noted also that while it is outside the jurisdiction of the IWWC, at some point they will need as-builts.

Dave Smith made a motion to approve the wetlands discharge plan at 231 Old Monson Road as presented with the conditions that prior to construction, the Wetlands Officer and Department of Public Works review the field activities and install riprap at the discharge swale, and that the easement be modified also to formally benefit the town. Kurt Mordasky seconded the motion. Motion was unanimously approved.

9. Wetland violation discussions: Williamson Road Bridge, Tractor Supply, Crystal Lake Dam.

Tractor Supply: David Perkins reported that concrete slurry got into the wetlands and Tractor Supply needs to clean it up and remediate. He said Tractor Supply was also supposed to do more planting this past spring, but did not follow through. He noted that some plants in the wetlands did not take as the land was likely wetter than originally thought. Japanese knotweed also needs to be removed from the wetlands. David Perkins said he has been in contact with Tractor Supply's consultant, George Logan of REMA Ecological Services. He noted they are still holding a \$5,000 bond on the project, and this will not be released until the work is completed satisfactorily.

Crystal Lake Dam: David Perkins said he discovered that a company hired by the Crystal Lake Association closed the road and were out at the dam fixing it one day. They had not had any discussion with the town. He noted they got approvals from the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) and the Army Corps of Engineers. David Perkins said DEEP typically would inform him. Hickory Lake said the work appears to be finished and cleaned up and that the dam looks good now. The concrete blocks have been removed. David Perkins will meet with a representative from the Association to make sure they talk to the town.

Williamson Road Bridge: David Perkins said when this project was approved, the wetlands area to the south of the road was not supposed to be disturbed. It appears that stakes were put in at the wrong place and workers cleared out and stumped trees in the wetlands area. A pile of soil has been deposited near the brook on the northwest side of the existing bridge without proper soil and erosion controls, resulting in allowance of silt to enter the wetlands and watercourses. They were not following the plans approved in October of 2019. Presently he is waiting for a Connecticut licensed Soil Scientist to submit a plan of remediation for the wetland areas disturbed.

10. Adjournment

Tom Topping made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Kurt Mordasky. Motion was unanimously approved. The August 19, 2020 meeting of the Stafford Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission was adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Annie Gentile
Recording Secretary