

Town of Stafford
Inland Wetlands Commission
Regular Meeting
November 17, 2021 – 7:00 PM
Veterans' Meeting Room

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TOWN CLERK

Members Present: Barry Locke, Chairman
John D. Wilson
Tom Topping
David Belcher
Dr. David Mordasky
Kurt Mordasky

Also Present: David Perkins, ZEO
James Halleran, forester
Ricky Dorman, alternate

AGENDA

1. **Call to order.**
2. **Establish a quorum**
3. **Elect a new chairman**
4. **Review and approve minutes of 8/4/21**
5. **Review and take possible action on application for forestry at 188 Leonard Road**
6. **Accept and review application for commercial garage at 162 East Street**
7. **2022 Meeting Schedule**
8. **Adjournment**

1. **Call to order.**
John Wilson called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. The pledge of allegiance was recited.
2. **Establish a quorum.**
A quorum was established with Barry Locke, Chair; John Wilson, Tom Topping, David Belcher, Dr. David Mordasky, and Kurt Mordasky
3. **Elect a new chairman**
There was consensus that Barry Locke should continue as chairman.
4. **Review and approve minutes of 8/4/21.**
Barry Locke made a motion to accept the minutes of August 4, 2021, seconded by Kurt Mordasky. All were in favor. Motion carried.
5. **Review and take possible action on application for forestry at 188 Leonard Road.**
James Halleran, a forester out of Durham who will be supervising the timber harvest, said the property is about 30 acres with some wetlands, poorly drained soils, and a need for a stream crossing. They will construct corduroy bridges to cross areas that might see high disturbance.

They will use 16 foot by 4 foot timber mats to keep them four feet off the ground in sensitive areas. The stream crossing will include timber matting with corduroy on both sides. They will work with the weather and wait until the ground is frozen or dry enough to be operable, which would probably mean a mid-winter project. The project is expected to be about two months in duration.

James Halleran said this area was harvested about 30 years ago and there is some gentle topography. It is also quite rocky with lots of boulders. There is plenty of area available to keep erosion to a minimum and stay out of the wetlands.

John Wilson referenced the map provided. He said it is important that the area marked with a B not be used as a landing. David Perkins said it is a cul-de-sac that could be expanded into the neighbor's property if it were a town road, but it is not. The space in between is not dedicated to a highway and they don't want to open it up. James Halleran said he would make sure that does not happen.

John Wilson said he or at least David Perkins should walk the site after the bridges and mats have been put in but before any harvesting begins. James Halleran said he would contact David Perkins when they are ready for that inspection.

Dr. David Mordasky asked how many crossings need to be done. James Halleran said there is one stream crossing and at least one wetland crossing. Dr. Mordasky asked if there might be any reason to number and mark the crossings. David Perkins said he has looked at James Halleran's proposal and that he found it satisfactory.

Dr. David Mordasky also asked if there are typically middle and end inspections of these types of jobs. He asked if there is any reason they should invite the forester back after the job is completed to provide a synopsis. David Perkins said they do inspect the work in the middle of harvesting and at completion, but they only invite someone back if there is an issue.

John Wilson said some logging operations always go well. He said he liked what the applicant did here in providing information as it is quite clear. He would like to see this kind of labeling when wetlands are involved.

David Perkins noted that forestry used to be in the Zoning Regulations but was moved to the Inland Wetlands Regulations because that is what the State wants to see. He said this is new for Stafford. He noted that the several other towns in Connecticut that have forestry operations have them regulated by the state, so Stafford is a little bit unique. He said he talked to James Halleran about acceptable field activities, such as not cutting in vernal ponds and not leaving tops in the wetlands. He said he only brings forestry applications to the Commission if there are major wetlands involved.

Barry Locke said he agreed also with John Wilson about having the bridges and mats inspected before any harvesting takes place.

David Perkins said the Commission can ask for a \$1,000 bond and he recommended they ask for one.

David Mordasky made a motion, seconded by Kurt Mordasky, to accept the forestry application of James Halleran, forester, at 188 Leonard Road (property of Joanna Warner) as presented in the application and as discussed by the Commission. All were in favor. Motion carried. David Perkins said he will publish notice of the decision and get James Halleran his permit.

6. Accept and review application for commercial garage at 162 East Street.

David Perkins said this application includes a small amount of land in the upland review area and that the applicant would like to make a presentation at their next meeting.

John Wilson said he felt they could review and accept this application tonight. He said he walked the site and there is a barrier at the end of the lot, with a little wetlands, but then a beautiful stand of pine trees. He said the applicant is on the hard surface where he presently parks his business trucks.

The Commission reviewed the map provided by David Perkins. David Perkins said the applicant would not be encroaching any more than they are presently. It is about 30 feet from the wetlands to the edge of the building. Dr. David Mordasky noted the applicant runs a class operation.

Dr. David Mordasky made a motion, seconded by Kurt Mordasky to accept the permit application of Windsor Realty, LLC for a commercial garage in the upland review area at 162 East Street as presented. All were in favor. Motion carried.

7. 2022 Meeting Schedule

There was consensus by the Commission to continue meeting on the third Wednesdays of the month at 7:00 p.m. in the Veteran's Meeting Room at Warren Memorial Town Hall.

Tom Topping asked about and the Commission briefly discussed various wet areas such as the area near the skating rink and Tractor Supply. David Perkins is keeping his eye on conditions around town.

New alternate Ricky Dorman, who attended the meeting in the audience, was welcomed. He provided some background about himself and what drew him to the Inland Wetlands Commission.

Respectfully submitted,



Annie Gentile
Recording Secretary