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David Perkins
ZEO

Town of Stafford
Inland Wetlands Commission
December 21, 2022 – 7:00 PM
Veterans Conference Room
Warren Memorial Town Hall

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

Also Present: David Perkins, ZEO
 John Wittenzellner, applicant

AGENDA

1. **Call to order.**
2. **Establish a quorum**
3. **Review minutes of 9/21/2022**
4. **Discussion on Notice of Violation issued to Witt Farm LLC**
5. **Set meeting calendar for 2023**
6. **Other Business**
7. **Adjournment**

1. **Call to order.**

John Wilson, Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

2. **Establish a quorum.**

A quorum was established with regular members John Wilson, Chair; Tom Topping, Kurt Mordasky, Dr. David Mordasky, and Dave Smith. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

3. **Review minutes of 9/21/2022**

Kurt Mordasky made a motion, seconded by Dr. David Mordasky to approve the minutes of the September 21, 2022 meeting as presented. John Wilson, Kurt Mordasky, and Dr. David Mordasky voted in favor. Tom Topping and Dave Smith abstained. Motion carried.

4. **Discussion of Notice of Violation issued to Witt Farm LLC.**

David Perkins provided copies of a four-page letter emailed to him the same day from George T. Logan, Professional Wetlands Scientist with REMA Ecological Services. The

letter outlined a proposed remediation plan for the Notice of Violation (NOV) issued to Witt Farm.

Dave Smith noted he did not attend the original NOV meeting but in reading the letter from REMA, he said it sounded like there were four areas of interest with the fourth being the most critical. He noted actions were taken in areas 2 and 4 and that less remediation was needed in areas 1 and 3. He noted also that REMA is recommending a follow-up on the remediation be done next spring. He asked John Wittenzellner when the original work was done on his property. John said it was done shortly before Stafford's Farm Day.

David Perkins said the greatest concern was with Crossing #4 as outlined at the top of Page 3 of the REMA letter. He said water was draining more rapidly into the road than it should have been. John Wittenzellner said they removed all the rock. He said they pulled a lot of rock out of the side of the road and it probably changed the direction of flow. He said he put in stone that diverted the flow coming down from the culvert. He said he put in a stone wall to hold back what he was putting in and he got some good topsoil from the conservatory. He said he did what he was advised to do, then hayed it and seeded it. Then he removed the stone and stone wall.

Dave Smith said it sounds like everything now is underway as it needs to be. David Perkins said the issue now is whether to remove the NOV and whether they need to issue a wetlands permit for the work.

John Wilson said he did not see a need for a public hearing. Dave Smith agreed. He said they won't learn anything new and this work will have no impact on the public.

John Wittenzellner said he did not intend to create a situation where a NOV was needed, and he better understands the situation now. He noted he has done a lot of work on the farm to date, but there is still much more to do. He said he has set up a meeting for next week to further discuss his other plans, and going forward he will take out appropriate permits. He said he will also follow through on the plantings, and he will retain George Logan for the additional work to be done as he has been very helpful educating him about the process.

Dr. David Mordasky made a motion to remove the Notice of Violation and accept the Wetlands Application based on the December 21, 2022 letter from REMA Ecological Services. The motion was seconded by Kurt Mordasky. All were in favor. Motion carried.

On a separate note, David Perkins announced he will not be with the Town of Stafford in 2023. He has resigned his position to take a similar position closer to home. He asked John Wilson to follow through in the spring on this application.

5. Set meeting calendar for 2023

After a brief discussion, the Commission agreed to continue following their existing meeting schedule. Dr. David Mordasky made a motion to set the 2023 meeting schedule for the third Wednesdays of the month at 7:00 p.m. in the Veterans Conference Room at Town Hall. The motion was seconded by Tom Topping. All were in favor. Motion carried.

6. Other Business

David Perkins provided a copy of a Notification of Timber Harvest at 13 Sartori Road, the property owned by Jonathan and Barbara Dell. The supervising Forest Products Harvester is Austin Harmon c/o Hull Forest Products, 101 Hampton Road in Pomfret Center, CT. David Perkins said there are no wetlands on the property, so the Commission will just need to enforce forestry regulations.

One of those regulations is that they cannot clear cut within 50 feet of a developed property. The forester there was told he should talk to the neighbor if they want the pines next door to their property to be taken down. It is in everyone's best interest to take down the approximately 20 pine trees there, so if they are amenable to that, they can proceed. Dave Smith agreed. He said he saw no issue with taking them down as they could be a hazard.

Dave Smith made a motion to accept and approve the timber harvest application at 13 Sartori Road. The motion was seconded by Kurt Mordasky. All were in favor. Motion carried.

David Perkins said the Westford Avenue Bridge over Baker Brook is going to be replaced and they will be working in the wetlands. He said the Commission will want to do a public information meeting on it next month. The Commission agreed to add this to their next agenda.

7. Adjournment

John Wilson thanked David Perkins for all of his help over the past few years and everyone wished him the best in his future position.

Dr. David Mordasky made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Kurt Mordasky. All were in favor. Motion carried. The December 21, 2022 Stafford Inland Wetlands Commission meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Annie Gentile
Recording Secretary