

Town of Stafford  
Inland Wetlands Commission  
Regular Meeting  
October 18, 2023  
Veterans Meeting Room

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*Timothy J. Wilson*  
TOWN CLERK

Members Present: John D. Wilson, Chair  
Hickory Lake  
Kurt Mordasky  
Janet Bareiss  
Dave Smith

Also Present: Michael Bartlett – Timber Harvest Application, 229 Leonard Road  
David Prickett – Wetlands Application – 5 Holmes Road

**Agenda:**

1. Call to order
2. Establish a quorum
3. Review and approve minutes of 9/20/2023
4. Application for timber harvest – 229 Leonard Rd., Michael Bartlett
5. Wetlands Application – 5 Holmes Rd, David Prickett
6. Other Business
7. 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 John Wilson, Chair; Hickory Lake, Kurt Mordasky, Dave Smith and Janet Bareiss

**3. Review and approve minutes of 9/20/2023**

Kurt Mordasky made a motion, seconded by Dave Smith to approve the 9/20/2023 minutes as written. Kurt Mordasky, Dave Smith, and John Wilson voted in favor. Hickory Lake and Janet Bareiss abstained. Motion carried.

**4. Application for timber harvest – 229 Leonard Rd., Michael Bartlett**

Michael Bartlett of Hull Forest Products in Pomfret Center, CT attended the meeting representing the property owner, Michael Cyr of Kensington, CT.

Michael Bartlett said the property had been cut about 12+ years ago and there is a lot of oak regeneration there. There are significant pockets of mortality. There are some bigger pines they want to take down. The work will require one wetlands crossing. They will use an existing road that was used the last time and by the previous owners of the property. There is a small stone culvert and they will put down mats over it. They will also mat all the soft areas. John Wilson noted he had walked the property that day.

Michael Bartlett said they will probably start work in a couple of weeks. He said quite a bit of the access road will have mats. The more open swamp is up near the boundary. The wetlands crossing is mostly two to four feet wide.

There were no further questions or comments from the Commission.

Dave Smith made a motion to approve the timber harvest application as presented, seconded by Hickory Lake. All were in favor. Motion carried.

**5. Wetlands Application – 5 Holmes Rd., David Prickett**

Dave Prickett of Longmeadow, MA., owner of the property at 5 Holmes Road on Crystal Lake, attended the meeting. He said he and his wife bought the property earlier this year. The property contained remnants of an existing home about 25 feet from the lake, a dilapidated shed and an outhouse.

Dave Prickett said they worked with Associated Building Wreckers to take these buildings down. However, they experienced a great deal of rain in the past three weeks and it was not possible to get a bobcat and other excavating equipment safely into the property on what was an existing driveway of dirt, grass and gravel. They therefore tried to build a real driveway in order to get in safely. After doing so, they removed everything from the lot including old equipment that was stockpiled there.

John Wilson said Dave Prickett straightened out the driveway issue with the Town. However, before then, they received several complaints in the Building/Zoning office. He said one person complained that material from the new driveway was getting into the lake. John Wilson said he went out to the property and found no evidence of this claim. He said Devin Cowperthwaite, Director of Public Works, also went out to the property and also found no evidence of this. He said he told the Building/Zoning Manager Sheree Schold that if she got another complaint to her office to ask them to show him evidence of this occurring. He said he never heard another word about it. John Wilson said they also received complaints about people working in the wetlands, but there are no wetlands on the property.

John Wilson said the driveway is in the upland review area, so the applicant did jump the gun in doing work before coming before them to get a permit. They need to have a permit on record. He said they did an excellent job with the driveway, it is well compacted, and the property is significantly improved. He said there is grass between where the work ends and the lake, and there is no sign of anything getting into the lake. He noted the contractor added silt fencing for erosion control.

Dave Smith asked if the work has been completed. Dave Prickett said the driveway and demolition work are both done. They still need to put in a shed. John Wilson said the mess that was on the property has been cleaned up. Dave Smith said if the work is complete and the land is stabilized, then he felt everything is in order.

Hickory Lake made a motion to approve the Wetlands Application at 5 Holmes Road in Stafford, seconded by Kurt Mordasky. All were in favor. Motion carried.

**6. Other Business**

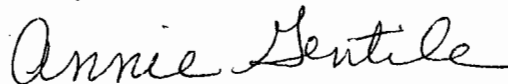
The Commission discussed the need for a Vice Chair. In the past, when Barry Locke was Chair, John Wilson basically filled the role of a Vice Chair. After a short discussion, Hickory Lake suggested Dave Smith, with his background and expertise, was best suited for the position. Dave Smith said he would be happy to fill the role.

Hickory Lake made a motion to elect Dave Smith as Vice Chair, seconded by Kurt Mordasky. All were in favor. Motion carried.

**7. Adjournment**

Hickory Lake made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Kurt Mordasky. All were in favor. Motion carried. The October 18, 2023 meeting of the Stafford Inland Wetlands Commission was adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Annie Gentile  
Recording Secretary