

Town of Stafford
Inland Wetlands Commission
Regular Meeting
February 21, 2024
1st Floor Conference Room

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TOWN CLERK

3 pages.

Members Present: John D. Wilson, Chair
Kurt Mordasky
Dr. David Mordasky
Dave Smith
Ricky Dorman, alternate

Also Present: Andy Marchese, ZEO
Chris Lemery, Forest Technician with Hull Forest Products
Public

Agenda:

1. Call to order
2. Establish a quorum
3. Review and approve minutes of 11/15/2023
4. Application for timber harvest – 0 Monson Road, Hull Forest, Chris Lemery
5. Adjournment

1. Call to Order

John Wilson called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. in the 1st Floor Conference Room. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

2. Establish a quorum

A quorum was established with John Wilson, Chair; Kurt Mordasky, Dr. David Mordasky, Dave Smith and seating alternate member Ricky Dorman for Hickory Lake.

3. Review and approve minutes of 11/15/2023

Kurt Mordasky made a motion to approve the minutes as written, seconded by Dr. David Mordasky. All were in favor. Motion carried.

4. Application for timber harvest – 0 Monson Road, Hull Forest, Chris Lemery

Chris Lemery, forest technician with Hull Forest Products, provided an overview of the application. The site is located at 181 and 183 Monson Road, the property of Burton and Carol Davis. This is a 44-acre parcel of which they plan to harvest 42 acres. They will be taking out 40 percent of its poorest species trees, those dead and diseased.

Chris Lemery said they will use only existing roads on the property. There will be no new roads or crossings made. There are seven stream crossings and possibly one wetlands crossing. They will use mats and corduroys.

John Wilson noted the application does not include a wetlands map. He said there is a strip through the property that has designated wetlands soil. Chris Lemery said there will be no crossings alongside that strip. He said the loggers might, however, need to use the existing road on the backside.

Chris Lemery said all of the existing roads are from the last harvest that Carol Davis' father put in about 30 years ago. He said they are pretty clean. He added that about 70 percent of the trees are pine with 25 to 30 percent hardwood. He said Burt Davis wants to transition the property from pine stand to oak stand and birch. He said last time the Davises just used a logger but they are using a forester as well this time. He showed the locations of the two landings they plan to use on the property.

Chris Lemery noted the Right of Way is moved and that the Davis property is inaccurate on the GIS mapping. He said he redid the map and spoke to both the Town Clerk and Assessor about it. Dave Smith said an abutting landowner had called saying some discrepancy occurred when a pin had been moved. Chris Lemery said the property is all flagged now and that he took the Davis' survey and those for all the abutting properties and made it more accurate. He will keep a short distance in from the property lines.

Dave Smith asked about the timing of the project. Chris Lemery said they got the marking completed the day before and they expect to start about two weeks from now. He expects the entire project to take one to two months, and it will depend on whether they get a hand or harvesting crew. They plan to get a harvesting crew.

Donna Wright of 95 West Stafford Road asked if there is a lot of dead ash and oak on the property. Chris Lemery said there is more dead oak and while it's up to the logger, they will salvage what they can. He said they plan to get a harvester and forwarder.

Ricky Dorman made a motion to accept the application for timber harvest on Monson Road as presented, seconded by Dave Smith. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Chris Lemery was asked to call the town office to inform the ZEO when they start the job.

In other news, Kurt Mordasky said a complaint was made about a lake property at 16 Reservoir Drive. A retaining wall was put up at a location that may be beyond the rear property line. Andy Marchese said the homeowner applied for a zoning permit for a small pavilion but not the retaining wall. He said the homeowner should have applied for a zoning permit for that and get the boundary line location, but he did not.

Andy Marchese said the homeowner is currently in Costa Rica and is not expected back until March 8 or 9, but he went up to the property and talked to the contractor, Matt

Basch and explained to him that it was put up without obtaining approvals. Andy Marchese said the wall may have to be taken out if it was constructed beyond his boundary line, but he'll need to wait until the homeowner returns.

John Wilson said he felt the property owner needs to come before the Commission.

5. Adjournment

Dr. David Mordasky made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Kurt Mordasky. All were in favor. Motion carried. The February 21, 2024 meeting of the Stafford Inland Wetlands Commission was adjourned at 7:19 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Annie Gentile
Recording Secretary