

Willington Inland Wetland and Watercourse Commission

July 25, 2022 – 6:30 PM

Special Meeting Minutes

Please Note: This meeting was conducted online.

A. Call to Order/ Roll call

P. Lord called the meeting to order at 6:42 pm.

Members Present:

Dave Schreiber

Mark Drobney

Patrick Lord

Also Present

M. D'Amato – Land Use Agent

Chris Roberts – Assistant Land Use Agent

B. Seating of alternates

None

C. Applications to be received:

None

D. Approval of Minutes:

a. April 25, 2022

P. Lord stated that he didn't see minutes attached to the email for the meeting. M. Drobney suggested they move this to later in the meeting. M. Drobney motioned to move Approval of Minutes to item G. Old Business. D. Schreiber seconded **All in Favor. Motion Passed.**

E. Public Hearing:

None

F. New Business:

a. TH-22-2 Timber Harvest at 0 Daleville Road (17/029-0A) Owner: Lawrence Becker Applicant: James Halleran

James Halleran introduced himself as a forester from Perma Treat sawmill in Durham CT. He explained that the property owner had noticed his trees were mature and that there were dying oak trees. He added that it had been logged 20 – 30 years prior and there were established logging roads which would be utilized. P. Lord asked M. D'Amato to pull up the map. M. D'Amato pulled up the maps. P. Lord asked J. Halleran to explain the methods of his proposed activities. J. Halleran explained they would use an 8-wheel forwarder that has a harvester on the machine. It will cut the tree, fell it, put it on the ground and

chop it up. He added that some tree would be felled by chainsaw. He noted that the owner wanted diameter limit cuts, he believed to be 12 inch and up to be cut and the rest would be left. He explained that some smaller stuff would be cut to make room for roads, and growth, but they would mostly target mature stuff. He added that most material would be picked up by a triaxle log truck. He noted that there were no wetland or stream crossings. There was a stream in the northern section of the parcel, but it would be excluded. M. Drobney asked if these were all existing trails. J. Halleran said yes, the main trail was existing and to establish new trails they would follow the flat areas of the land. He noted that if the trails became beat up or they anticipate lots of rain they would place water bars, but other than that he didn't anticipate any other issues. P. Lord asked how long the work would take place. J. Halleran said it would be 2-4 months depending on the weather, noting that this area was dry, and the crew would be out most likely at the end of august. D. Schreiber said it sounded good to him. P. Lord said he thought they would be maintaining the forest well. The applicant said they were familiar with the Willington forestry regulations. P. Lord asked what his plan was with the limbs. J. Halleran said they mostly get left; they don't harvest the whole tree. D. Schreiber noted this would protect the forest floor from deer and such. D. Schreiber asked if he would be taking out some softwoods like hemlock and pine. The applicant indicated that he would be. P. Lord noted that the applicant would be following DEEPs best management practices. The applicant stated that was correct. D. Schreiber moved to accept application TH-22-2 as described in the application. M. Drobney seconded. **All in favor Motion Passed.**

b. TH-22-3 Timber Harvest at 142 Daleville Road (12/007-00) Owner: David and Margaret E Gankofskie Applicant: James Halleran

P. Lord asked if this property was close to the last application. J. Halleran said yes, they border each other. He explained that the crew would do one and then move to the other. He added that this property had stream crossings and bridge mats would be used. M. Drobney asked if it was next to the loading area. J. Halleran said yes it was close to the road. He added that he had never seen it wet and assumed it was overflow from a pond, but they would still use bridge mats. He explained there was also logging trails already established to the south that would be utilized. Then they would make their way north. P. Lord asked if this was a targeted operation. The applicant answered yes and explained that the composition of the woods didn't change much. He further explained that the same crew, machinery and general plan would be used on this property. P. Lord asked if a buffer would be left around the pond. The applicant said yes nothing would be felled that could fall into the pond. D. Schreiber asked if there were any wetlands on the piece. J. Halleran added that other than the stream crossing that, no, there wasn't. P. Lord asked if this would be done in concert with the other application. The applicant answered yes. The commission had no other questions. M. D'Amato noted that the ditch shown on the map was not shown as wetlands on the town's wetland maps. He wanted to be clear that we weren't picking it up as a wetland. D. Schreiber motioned to approve TH-22-3. M. Drobney seconded. **All in Favor. Motion Passed.**

G. Old Business:

a. April 25, 2022

The commission asked M. D'Amato to display the minutes. The commission read through the minutes. M. Drobney stated he didn't see any changes to be made. M. Drobney motioned to approve the minutes of April 25th, 2022, with no changes. P. Lord Seconded. **All in Favor. Motion Passed.**

H. Correspondence:

I. Staff report and Discussion

M. D'Amato explained that staff was going through the final steps with the Loves Travel Stop Project. He noted that he and C. Roberts had been out on the site earlier in the day looking at the layout and outstanding items. He explained over the next days and week they would be receiving final documents and information and the several bonds would be held for E&S and landscaping as well as other items. P. Lord asked how the soil and bank stabilization looked. M. D'Amato said that everything looked tight, and they hadn't seen any failures. He noted that there was one issue where someone had seen some silt fencing that had been down but explained that it was because work was being done in the area and it needed to come down and was put back up immediately after. M D'Amato added the state approvals, final as built, etc. would be coming in. P. Lord noted that people were anxious to get Polster road back open. M. D' Amato explained that it was a challenge to have traffic coming through with the construction going on at the same time. As well as that they didn't want the road paved and then have construction traffic running over the new road.

M. D'Amato noted the Kathy Demers brough to his attention that membership for CACIWC. He said that it was a dual membership between IWWC and Conservation commission in which they split the cost. Therefore, sixty dollars would be used of the commissions training and membership line of the budget. The commission agreed.

D. Schreiber asked about the application for the project on river road. M. D'Amato explained that there was an application for a zone change. He further explained that if the zone change was approved, they would have to come for special permit, wetlands permit, state approvals, NDDDB, etc. M. D'Amato told D. Schreiber that they would get him copies of the application if he wanted.

J. Public Comment:

N. Tella stated that there was a 19-page letter written by Kathy Demers representing the Willington conservation commission demonstrating that the project shouldn't be coming to town. P. Lord asked what this was in reference to. N. Tella stated it was about the warehouse project. He said it would be nice for the wetlands commission to do the same. D. Schreiber said that they couldn't do that. N. Tella asked why they couldn't do that. He stated that he didn't understand why the conservation commission could and the IWWC could not. P. Lord explained that they are a regulatory body of the town and they have established regulations that they must evaluate an application against. He further explained the process. D. Schreiber added they can't give their opinions when something is not before them.

Thomas Worthley introduced himself as a managing forester for UConn Forest. He explained he was late to the meeting because he saw it was at 7:30 and didn't realize it was online. He added that he wanted to come watch the meeting because UConn property neighbor 142 Daleville road. P. Lord asked if the meeting had been missed publish. M. D'Amato explained that the regular meetings are at 7:30 but this meeting was recorded as a special meeting at 6:30. T. Worthley noted it was his mistake. P. Lord asked if as a forester T. Worthley had any comments on the Willington forestry regulations. He stated that he is on the IWWC in Haddam and theirs are very similar. They had a conversation about forestry regulations. M. D'Amato said if he called the office, we could provide him with the info on the two timber harvest applications.

Adjournment

D. Schreiber Motioned to adjourn the meeting. **All in favor. Motion Passed.**