

Willington Inland Wetland and Watercourse Commission
March 22, 2021 – 6:00PM
Special Meeting Minutes

Please Note: This meeting was held online.

Members Present:

Dave Schreiber
Patrick Lord
Mark Drobney

Other Members Present:

Mike D'Amato – Zoning Agent
Ashley Stephens – Assistant Zoning Agent

D. Schreiber opened the meeting at 6:04pm.

A. Roll call

B. Seating of alternates

C. Applications to be received:

IW-21-5 Application for a shed in the wetlands. 45 St. Moritz Circle Applicant/ Owner
Zachary Lavallee

The commission agreed that they do not need to have a public hearing for this application.

M. D'Amato stated that we will ask the applicant to submit photos for the next meeting, and the commission can decide if they would like a site walk.

D.Schreiber stated they will table this to the next meeting.

D. Public Hearing:

E. New Business:

1. IW-21-3 Application for Timber Harvest. 55 Blair Rd. Applicant Thomas Walker Owner:
Stephen Lackman
2. TH-21-1 Application for Timber Harvest 55 Blair Rd. Applicant Thomas Walker Owner:
Stephen Lackman

P. Lord stated there are wetlands and a stream mapped on the eastern block. He asked the applicant if there was any NBDD habitat on the map.

T. Walker stated that Erik Hansen the forester stated there was no issue with the habitat, and that the tagged trees were not marked in the wetlands.

The commission discussed that the map shows that there are timber harvest areas marked in the upland review area.

T. Walker stated he can get Erik to state in writing that there is nothing in the wetland area.

D. Schreiber stated we will need Erik Hansen's memo stating there is not any logging in the wetlands, and then we can accept the application.

T. Walker asked if it is against regulations to log in the wetlands.

D. Schreiber stated you need to leave the forest floor how you find it, so there shouldn't be any ruts.

T. Walker stated it's as of right, with a jurisdictional ruling.

M. D'Amato stated two applications were submitted. The timber harvest is looking at the harvest and the operational details, we are not under the same criteria as other towns as we have our own forestry regulations, where the commission wants to make sure all procedures and policies are followed. Timber harvest regulations inform that application which is behind just a jurisdictional ruling.

P. Lord stated we have separate wetlands and forestry activity regulations. What is the plan for doing the work in the wetlands?

T. Walker stated my understanding is that there was nothing marked in wetlands according to him.

D. Schreiber stated we need the memo, with a revised map showing there isn't logging in the wetlands.

M. D'Amato stated you could proceed forward with evaluating the applications with the assumption that nothing is in the wetlands. And then if the commission is comfortable with everything else, we can write a condition that if there are activities in the wetlands then they would have to come back. The other alternative would be to push this out a month to the next meeting.

P. Lord asked if there were streams running through the area?

T. Walker stated Erik Hansen said they were not going near it because it didn't make any sense to.

M. D'Amato stated if Erik Hansen is saying there isn't activity in a mapped wetland area, he could take photos of trees near the closest wetlands, and the commission can see why the map submitted doesn't match ours. If we can get confirmation there isn't logging in the triangle piece that is shown on the map, then the commission will be satisfied. If the photos show that there will be trees in that area, Erik can show what little area is in that. We just need to know how they will be harvesting in the wetlands.

T. Walker stated he will address it with Erik and the owner and then they will proceed forward.

P. Lord made a motion to table the following application:

IW-21-3 Application for Timber Harvest. 55 Blair Rd. Applicant Thomas Walker Owner: Stephen Lackman

With additional information for the commission before proceeding. D. Schreiber seconded the motion. All in favor.

P. Lord asked if the logging roads are preexisting.

T. Walker stated yes and most will be done with a forwarder, a few select areas to use a skidder.

P. Lord asked if T. Walker could talk more about the harvest.

T. Walker stated Erik marked it based on the owner's wishes. Some areas will leave some trees, while others are not going to be cut at all. They varied the markings based on land, it is a silviculture cut.

P. Lord made a motion to table the following application:

TH-21-1 Application for Timber Harvest 55 Blair Rd. Applicant Thomas Walker Owner: Stephen Lackman

With updated information based on the wetlands application.

M. Drobney seconded motion. All in favor.

F. Old Business:

N/A

G. Correspondence

3 Polster Rd Bio Survey

M.D'Amato stated the bio survey that was required as part of the 3 Polster Rd approval had been provided. This is not something that needs to be approved by the Commission, but it was required to be provided before construction can begin.

D. Schreiber suggested it to be sent to the Conservation Commission and the Planning and Zoning Commission.

M.D'Amato stated he is working on finalizing the RFQ for the clerk of the works for Loves to have that out for end of April or early May.

P. Lord asked if we know when the construction is scheduled for.

M.D'Amato they said they would like to start in May, but I would like to have the clerk ready for the end of april/early may so we are prepared.

H. Staff report and Discussion

P. Lord asked if there was any movement on the previous site walk with the pond.

M. D'Amato stated the applicant withdrew his application because he did some test holes and realized where the pond was going to go would require so much excavation he would either need to make the pond much larger or it would be so deep with such steep sides it wouldn't make sense. He is going to consider another location and submit a new application.

I. Public Comment:

N/A

D. Schreiber adjourned the meeting at 6:45pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ashley Stephens