

Willington Inland Wetland and Watercourse Commission

October 25, 2021 – 7:30 PM

Meeting Minutes

Please Note: This meeting was held online.

Members Present

Dave Schreiber

Patrick Lord

Mark Drobney

Other Members Present:

Michael D'Amato – Zoning Agent

Christopher Roberts – Assistant Land Use Agent

A. Call to Order/ Roll call

B. Applications to be received:

C. Approval of Minutes:

a. September 27, 2021

b. July 26, 2021

D. Schreiber and P. Lord stated that they have read the minutes for the Minutes for September 27th, 2021 and July 26th, 2021 and have no changes to be made.

P. Lord motioned to approve minutes from September 27th, 2021 and July 26th, 2021. Seconded by M. Drobney.

All in favor. Motion Carries.

D. Public Hearing:

E. New Business:

a. IW-21-11 Selective Timber Harvest with Wetland Disturbance at 0 Clint Eldredge Road Owner: Clinton & Elna Eldredge Applicant: James Halleran

b. TH-21-4 Timber Harvest at 0 Clint Eldredge Road (17/016-00) Owner: Clinton & Elna Eldredge Applicant: James Halleran

c. IW-21-12 Selective Timber Harvest with Wetland Disturbance at 0 Clint Eldredge Road Owner: Richard Neumayer Applicant: James Halleran

d. TH-21-5 Timber Harvest at 0 Clint Eldredge Road (17/014-00) Owner: Richard Neumayer Applicant: James Halleran

D. Schreiber stated that the applications should be reviewed separately, and asked M. D'Amato to share the maps.

M D'Amato shared the map with the commission and D. Schreiber explained that the map covers parcels for both applications which together covers about 25 acres.

P. Lord questioned which property on the map was pertaining to the first application (IW-21-11).

Carl Riendeau clarified that it was the southern property on the map and elaborates.

D. Schreiber clarified that the northern parcel on the map was the second application. The applicant agreed.

P. Lord questioned how the landing for the first application on the northern property would be accessed. The applicant explained that there is a gate and a road that the property owner currently uses to access the property that will be utilized.

P. Lord pointed out that there is a land owner showing interest in having a timber harvest according to the documentation provided by the applicant. The applicant explained that the property owner of northern parcel contracted the applicant to do tree thinning on his property at which point the applicant got in contact with the adjacent property owner to the south and planned to have logging done on his property as well.

D. Schreiber asked the applicant to state his name for the record.

Carl Riendeau (applicant) stated that he is presenting this plan for the applicant, James Halleran a certified forester who is currently on vacation.

D. Schreiber questioned whether or not the Eldredges owned all of the property shown in the map. C. Riendeau explains that Clint Eldredge owns the Southern parcel and Richard Neumayer owns the northern property.

C. Riendeau explained that he was working with the owner of the northern property (Richard Neumayer) and through that job met the adjacent property owner to the south (Clint Eldredge) who wanted to have his property logged as well. He went on to give a presentation prepared by James Halleran

C. Riendeau explained that the property was logged 30 years ago and that this operation would be a follow up thinning to allow in more sunlight and nutrients to the forest. He explained that poorly drained soils exist on the property, and that the skid trail has been flagged and is the most direct and highest route available. It is explained that crossings have been flagged and that timber bridge mats will be placed over drainage

routes and pulled timber corduroy will be placed over 20 feet leading up to the crossings to ensure that machinery will be off the ground as to not disturb stream and drainage beds. A stream crossing that is labeled on the map as number two will no longer be necessary because in working with Clint Eldredge they were able to gain access to the needed area through his adjacent property to the south. He goes on to explain stream and drainage crossings were flagged on flattest, highest, and driest possible areas along the streams. He concludes that no trees will be felled within fifteen feet of Eldredge Brook and any tree harvesting within 15-30 feet of the brook will not remove more than 50 percent corduroy cover.

P. Lord clarified that the permits are separate and the commission should focus on one at a time. He points out that for the Eldredge property there is still a wetland crossing labeled with a number three. He questioned if the northeastern part of the property on the other side of the pond will be accessed and harvested.

C. Riendeau clarified that that area will not be logged.

P. Lord asked the applicant to explain timber mats to the commission.

C. Riendeau explained that a timber mat is a 6x8 mat bolted together and are 4 feet wide and 16 feet long. They are used to drive over and cross the streams and wetland so that these areas are not disturbed.

P. Lord asked if timber mats are a best practice in the industry.

C. Riendeau states that those are best management practice in the forestry guide because it doesn't allow for disturbance and erosion to the wetlands and stream beds.

P. Lord asked if they applicant plans on using the mats for the entire road.

C. Riendeau explained that they are only going to be used for crossing wetlands and streams and that the rest of the property is dry and accessible.

D. Schreiber asks if forwarders will be used. C. Riendeau stated that they will be used.

D. Schreiber asked for clarification on the route that they will take through this process.

C. Riendeau again explains that crossing number two will be eliminated because now that they are logging the Eldredge property they have access points on both sides of the stream.

M. Drobney asked if the roads drawn on the map are well established woods roads. C. Riendeau stated that they are well established and currently used by the Eldredges. M. Drobney asks what the topography is like. C. Riendeau stated that it is lower near the pond and higher in the west. He explained that there are some rolling hills but isn't that steep.

P. Lord explained that he deals with timber mats on a regular basis and from his experience they are the best way to cross the streams, and that they are almost like a bridge. C. Riendeau agreed.

D. Schreiber asked if there was any further discussion.

P. Lord asked if the applicant planned on harvesting trees around the crossing labeled number three. C. Rindeau explained that they will but not more than fifty percent of the tree cover. He also explained that the machinery has twenty six feet of reach to reach over the brooks.

M. D'Amato stated that he thought they would not be doing any cutting within fifteen feet of the brook. C. Rindeau clarified that they would be cutting within fifteen feet of the brook but not more than fifty percent of tree cover.

D Schreiber said that he thought it was Eldredge brook that they wouldn't be cutting within fifteen feet of.

M. D'Amato clarified by reading the applicants earlier statement in which he said no trees would be felled within fifteen feet of the brook and all trees lying between fifteen and thirty feet of the brook would not be harvested but no more than fifty percent of the tree cover. C. Rindeau agreed.

P. Lord pointed out that this operation would happen during the winter which would help in that the ground would be frozen mitigating disturbance to the soil. C. Rindeau agreed.

M. D'Amato asked if the applicant was comfortable with the property lines and where they lie. C. Rindeau explained that it's well-marked and they have found property stakes and most of the property is fenced. He added that he has talked to abutting land owners and made sure that they were happy with where the property lines lie.

M. D'Amato restated main points, including that the commission should encourage the applicant not to use crossing two unless necessary, and to make sure that all wood being removed stays off the road so plows can clear the roads in the winter.

D. Schreiber and P. Lord stated they are satisfied with the plan as presented. P. Lord Motions to approve based on the materials submitted and presentation IW-21-11 Selective Timber Harvest with Wetland Disturbance at 0 Clint Eldredge Road Owner: Clinton & Elna Eldredge Applicant: James Halleran. M. Drobney seconded.

All in favor. Motion Carried.

P. Lord stated that based on the info from the previous presentation he is satisfied with the timber harvesting application as well. He motioned to approve based on the materials submitted and presentation TH-21-4 Timber Harvest at 0 Clint Eldredge Road (17/016-00) Owner: Clinton & Elna Eldredge Applicant: James Halleran. M. Drobney Seconded.

All in favor. Motion Carried.

D. Schreiber introduced the next application for the adjacent property for Richard Nuemayer.

P. Lord asked the applicant to explain his plan for this property.

C. Rindeau explained again that timber mats and corduroy would be used at crossings of streams and wetland to mitigate disturbance and erosion to soil and stream bed. The applicant stated they would be doing a thinning again. He explained the topography of the property and that the landing would be off Clint Eldredge road and have a twenty foot long track pad made of two inch rip rap.

P. Lord pointed out that this property has a lot more wetlands, and that a stream channel exists along the northwestern side of the property. C Rindeau agrees and clarified that there won't be much timber that will be harvested, it is mostly smaller trees and soft maple.

D. Schreiber stated that he assumed that the forwarder would reach as far as it can in these areas and not go beyond what they can reach from outside the wetlands. C. Rindeau affirmed stating they have twenty six feet of reach with the forwarder.

M D'Amato illustrated the full extent of the wetland utilizing the towns GIS map.

M. Drobney asked how much bridging is expected to be used on crossing one. C Rindeau stated about forty feet of bridge would be used along with corduroy.

P. Lord asked if anything would be harvested west of crossing one. C. Rindeau stated only as much as the forwarder can reach. P. Lord asked what kind of trees they found in said area. The applicant explained there was some red maple, beech, birch, and ash trees.

D. Schreiber clarified that any wood south of crossing two on the map would be extracted through the opposite landing. C Rindeau agreed.

P. Lord Motions to approve based on the materials submitted and presentation

c. IW-21-12 Selective Timber Harvest with Wetland Disturbance at 0 Clint Eldredge Road Owner: Richard Neumayer Applicant: James Halleran

M. Drobney seconded.

All in favor. Motion Carried.

D. Schreiber introduces the next application for the timber harvest of the same property.

P. Lord asked about the landing for this application. C. Rindeau explained that a track pad would be constructed for the timber to be extracted.

M. D'Amato stated he does not have any issues with thee landing and its location.

P. Lord raised concern about the house abutting the northern property line. The applicant reassured the commission that they had spoken with the property owner and

they were happy with the plans. He also stated that property stakes have been found and marked.

P. Lord motioned to approve based on the materials submitted and presentation

d. TH-21-5 Timber Harvest at 0 Clint Eldredge Road (17/014-00) Owner: Richard Neumayer Applicant: James Halleran

M. Drobney seconded.

All in favor. Motion Carried.

F. Old Business:

G. Correspondence:

M. D'Amato explained that the D. Schreiber came in to sign the conservation commission's letter for their application for an open space grant. He stated the deadline had been extended.

H. Staff report and Discussion

a. Update on Loves Travel Stop

M. D'Amato reported that phase one is almost completed, and there were no major deviations with the truck stop project. The engineer will provide a substantial completion report before beginning phase two.

M. D'Amato introduces the new Assistant Land Use Agent, Christopher Roberts

P. Lord asked if M' D'Amato was being updated with the construction reports for the truck stop. M. D'Amato explained that he had access to daily reports and clerk of the works reports. P. Lord asked if there were any issues or deficiencies. M. D'Amato explained there was one issue where water was leaking out from a section of slope that was being cleared. The crew dealt with it appropriately and added extra sediment control measures.

D. Schreiber asked if M. D'Amato has seen the site recently.

M. D'Amato said he had been two weeks ago and stated he could try and set up a visit if the commission wanted to see the site.

P. Lord asked if the leeching field would be started during phase two.

M. D'Amato stated he was not sure but he would reach out and try to set up a visit so the commission can see the project.

P. Lord asked if the storm water retention area had been completed. M. D'Amato explained that it was most likely started in phase one but would not be completed until later in the project.

M. D'Amato stated he could send out a link to the reports if the commission was ever interested.

P. Lord stated he just wanted to be sure that the clerk of the works was reviewing the site as necessary.

M. D'Amato showed the commission some of the daily reports and explained that the town was receiving daily updates, reports, and inspections as required, and reassured that those in charge of the project are very responsive and responsible.

D. Schreiber asked if the reports were public. M. D'Amato explained that they are.

I. Public Comment:

Adjournment

P. Lord motioned to adjourn. M. Drobney Seconded

Meeting Adjourned at 8:35pm