

**TOWN OF HADDAM
INLAND WETLANDS COMMISSION
TOWN HALL
21 FIELD PARK DRIVE, HADDAM, CT
MONDAY, 8 MAY 2017
PUBLIC MEETING
APPROVED MINUTES
*Approved as Submitted at the 12 June 2017 Meeting***

ATTENDANCE

X	Paul Best, Secretary
X	Curt Chadwick
X	Jeremy DeCarli
A	Dan Iwanicki, Vice Chairman
X	Joe Stephens
A	Mark Stephens, Chairman
A	Tom Worthley
X	Dave Costa, Alternate – Seated
X	Gail Reynolds, Alternate - Seated
X	Jim Puska, Wetlands Enforcement Officer
X	Bunny Hall Batzner, Recording Clerk

1. Call to Order & Attendance/Seating of Alternates

Mr. Best, secretary, called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and all regular and alternate members were seated.

2. Additions/Corrections to the Agenda

None.

3. Public Comment

None.

4. Old Business

None.

5. New Business

1) Scotland Hardwoods, LLC, Applicant. Louis W. D'Amico, Sr. and Louis W. D'Amico, Jr. Trustees, Property Owners. Property Address: 65 Maple Avenue West, Higganum. Assessor's Map 23, Assessor's Lot 001-1. Proposed Activity: Timber Harvest.

Rod Burgess, Certified Forester, Scotland Hardwoods, LLC, was present.

Mr. Burgess began his presentation by reviewing the narrative (Exhibit A) and a topographic map (Exhibit B) as submitted with the application. The current proposal calls for an "as of right" selective timber harvest on approximately 12 of 46.9 acres. A one to three man logging crew operating a skidder will cut/skid logs to two main yarding areas (indicated by red dot on the map and are the same staging areas used to harvest this property approximately ten years ago) and from these areas a tri-axle log truck will pick up the logs and exit the property via the owner's driveway and Maple Avenue West.. Regular

working hours will be Monday through Saturday, 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Property boundaries and skid roads have been marked with fluorescent pink and blue flagging, respectively. All trees to be harvested will be marked with orange paint before start of harvest. Approximately 30,000 board feet of sawtimber to be removed from two areas of timber (one along driveway and one behind the garage) and approximately 90 percent of the trees 14 inches D.B.H. (diameter at breast height) will be removed. Types of trees to be removed reviewed. All tops with harvest will be reduced to five feet ground level. Estimated time to complete project two to three weeks. Would like to start project during the late spring/early summer of 2017.

Mr. Burgess reported there is one drainage area behind Mr. D'Amico's shop that will need to be crossed; and the entire property is all upland with the exception of this one area. The proposal calls for the use of portable bridges; and upon completion of the project, waterbars will be installed where necessary on the main skid roads. Mr. Burgess noted that he and Mr. Puska walked the site.

Mr. Puska stated he did walk the site with Mr. Burgess; and the crossing is insignificant as there's not much activity within it. Mr. Puska also stated the proposal for the crossing is merely precautionary.

Mr. Best asked if the reason for harvesting only 12 acres is due to the previous harvest. Mr. Burgess stated yes, as they had previously thinned the property.

Mrs. Reynolds asked the condition of the ash trees. Mr. Burgess reported the Emerald Ash Borer is onsite.

MOTION: Gail Reynolds moved to approve an Inland Wetlands Permit for a selective timber harvest of approximately 30,000 board feet of sawtimber. **Conditions:** 1. Standard Permit Conditions. 2. Special Conditions/Modifications – None. **Exhibits:** None. David Costa second. Motion carried unanimously.

2) Scotland Hardwoods, LLC, Applicant. William Cesana, Property Owner. Address: 733 Killingworth Road, Higganum. Assessor's Map 54, Assessor's Lot 003. Proposed Activity: Timber Harvest.

Rod Burgess, Certified Forester, Scotland Hardwoods, LLC, was present.

Mr. Burgess reported this project will take place on the East Coast Auto Salvage property, 733 Killingworth Road. Mr. Burgess began his presentation by reviewing the narrative (Exhibit A) and a topographic map (Exhibit B) as submitted with the application. The current proposal calls for an "as of right" selective timber on approximately 25 acres of 36.68 acres. A one to three man logging crew operating a skidder will cut/skid logs to one main yarding area (indicated by red dot on the map) and from this area a tri-axle log truck will pick up the logs and exit the property via the owner's driveway and Killingworth Road. Regular working hours will be Monday through Saturday, 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Property boundaries and skid roads have been marked with fluorescent pink and blue flagging, respectively. All trees to be harvested will be marked with orange paint before start of harvest. Approximately 95,000 board feet of sawtimber to be removed from two areas (one along driveway and one behind the garage) and approximately 90 percent of the trees 14 inches D.B.H. (diameter at breast height) will be removed. Types of trees to be removed reviewed. All tops with harvest will be reduced to five feet ground level. Estimated time to complete project six to eight weeks. Would like to start project during the late spring/early summer of 2017.

Using the map, Mr. Burgess reported there is a major drainage area (Saltpeter Brook) that crosses the property (beyond the office). Continuing to use the map, Mr. Burgess pointed out two skid roads - one goes to the north to the far side of the property on the north side of the hill and the other goes out in a southerly direction crossing a drainage area. The proposal calls for the use of portable bridges; and upon completion of the project, waterbars will be installed where necessary on the main skid roads. Using a larger map, Mr. Burgess pointed out the driveway, Saltpeter Brook, and the another wetland area (water comes down, but doesn't flow like the brook). Mr. Burgess noted that he and Mr. Puska had walked the site.

There were no comments/questions from the Commission or Mr. Puska.

MOTION: Joe Stephens moved to approve an Inland Wetlands Permit for a selective harvest of approximately 95,000 board feet of sawtimber. **Conditions:** 1. Standard Permit Conditions. 2. Special Conditions/Modifications – None. **Exhibits:** None. Jeremy DeCarli second. Motion carried unanimously.

3) Nicholas Szeszakow, Applicant. Nicholas M. Szeszakow and Britain A. Vitale, Property Owners. Property Address: 878 Killingworth Road, Higganum. Assessor's Map 54 Assessor's Lot 032. Activity: Drainage in Inland Wetlands

Nicholas Szeszakow, applicant/owner, was present.

Mr. Szeszakow reported he's installed a 24 foot section of 18 inch reinforced concrete pipe (RCP) through a stream running through the property in order to gain access to the other side of the property. Using the A-2 survey map (blue map), Mr. Szeszakow pointed out Killingworth Road (his property being east of this), the shared driveway, a pin at the corner of the driveway and Killingworth Road, the house location, and the location of a concrete pipe for drainage from the state roadway and a stream (flows maybe six-seven months of the year). Using the aerial and survey maps, Mr. Szeszakow pointed out the location of the pipe he's installed and a pond.

Mr. Best asked Mr. Puska if the 18 inch pipe will be sufficient for this area. Mr. Puska stated he thought so. Mr. Szeszakow stated the reason he installed the 18 inch pipe is due to the state having the same sized pipe on Route 81.

Mr. Puska reported he's met with Mr. Szeszakow and has been onsite a couple of times. Mr. Puska stated there is a nice area on the other side of the stream/wetland area; and if the application is approved, it will be for related work in an upland review area as well.

Mrs. Reynolds asked what was meant by "run through there". Mr. Szeszakow stated he'd like to use the area where the pipe has been installed, to take the tractor into the area, and go over there. Mr. Best again asked the length of the pipe. Mr. Szeszakow stated 24 feet.

Mr. Puska stated the only thing he noticed on the site walk was on the north side of the pipe it's still wet and suggested the placement of crushed stone. Mr. Puska also stated there are areas that need to be seeded and stabilized. Mr. Szeszakow stated he's aware of this and noted he stopped working on the area until the matter is rectified. Mr. Szeszakow also stated they are aware there are wetlands in the area and are not trying to eliminate them, but are trying to make them better. Mr. Szeszakow briefly talked about defining areas by continuing an existing stone wall.

Mr. Best asked Mr. Puska if there's any need for remediation from the work that's already been done. Mr. Puska stated no, but that he would like to see areas seeded and stabilized as well as the installation of silt fence. Mr. Szeszakow was agreeable.

Mr. DeCarli asked if any additional fill was brought in or was it just the pipe. Mr. Szeszakow stated they used the material that was onsite and they only brought in the pipe. A brief discussion followed in regard to the use of crushed stone.

Mr. Stephens asked Mr. Puska if he understood correctly that there will be additional activity within the wetlands. Mr. Puska stated no, he said "related work in the upland review area" as there is good property in the upland review area and it's not all swampy and wet.

Mrs. Reynolds asked Mr. Szeszakow if the area is wooded; and if so, he wouldn't be sowing grass in this area. Mr. Szeszakow stated the area is wooded and that he would only be placing seed in the area where the pipe has been installed.

MOTION: Paul Best moved to approve an Inland Wetlands Permit for installation of drainage pipe: 18 inch RCP at edge of pond to gain access to property on other side of stream – in wetlands area. **Conditions:** 1. Standard Permit Conditions. 2. Special Conditions/Modifications – Yes. 1. Seed and stabilize

disturbed areas. 2. Install silt fence. 3. Install two (2) loads stone on north side of pipe. **Exhibits:** None. Gail Reynolds second. Motion carried unanimously.

4. Joseph Kentoffio, Applicant and Property Owner. Address: 780 Little City Road, Higganum. Assessor's Map 41, Assessor's Lot 004-A. Activity: To Gain Access to Pool via Temporary Driveway, Clean Invasive Vegetation out of Pond, Grade Sides of Pond and Seed.

Vincent Madore, G. Madore Landscaping, representing the applicant/owner, was present.

Mrs. Reynolds stated the agenda should read "invasive" and not "evasive". Correction noted within the minutes.

Mr. Madore reported there is a small pond with deadfall trees in it and cattails are taking over the edges. Mr. Madore stated Mr. Kentoffio does not want to use chemicals to eliminate the cattails as he has Koi fish in the pond.

Mr. Madore stated Mr. Kentoffio has an in-ground pool and at this point in time is unsure as to whether he will remove or repair the pool. In either case, Mr. Kentoffio needs to maintain some form of access to allow equipment onto the property to do the work. Mr. Madore noted he currently has a permit to fill the pool in.

Mr. Madore reported Mr. Kentoffio would like to mow around the pond in order to keep the reeds, etc., down and he would like to pump the pond down to clean out the first two feet of it. Mrs. Reynolds asked if the pond is manmade. Mr. Madore stated he assumes the pond is manmade has it's been there for at least 50 years and he's dredged the pond twice. Mr. Madore also stated the pond is spring feed and the water level, except on rare occasions such as now with the rain, will come to the spillway and stop.

Using the aerial map, Mr. Madore pointed out the pool, the pond, the area for the temporary access (coming off of Little City Road), and the existing asphalt driveway. Mr. Madore stated he will install fencing around the pond, block the curb in order not to disturb it, remove the grass on the other side of the curb and use straight stone for the temporary access way. When the project is completed, seed will be placed around the pond and up to the stone (stone to remain as a temporary access).

Mr. Best asked if there's a stream accessing the area. Mr. Madore stated there's an outlet pipe that goes underneath the driveway and there's seasonal runoff from it. Mr. Madore also stated there's a small swale by the pool where rip rap will be installed to prevent erosion.

Mrs. Reynolds asked if the cattails will be dug out. Mr. Madore stated yes, a clean out bucket will be used, but they will not be dredging the pond. Mr. Madore also stated there will be no material coming off site. Mr. Madore noted the center of the pond is approximately 18 feet deep.

Mr. Best asked if the property owner does anything with the pond. Mr. Madore stated no, at one point kids skated on the pond, but there are no kids in the neighborhood at present.

Mr. Madore reported he has met with Mr. Puska onsite concerning the project; and he'll run things through Mr. Puska as they're taking place to make sure everyone is in agreement.

Mr. Costa stated it appears the temporary access road is going to become permanent. Mr. Puska stated no, as there will be no curb cut. Mr. Puska also stated there will be a separate permit issued for the temporary driveway access as well as the posting of a bond in the event there is any damage to the curbing. Mr. Puska and Mr. Madore both stated a chain will be placed across the access way to discourage anyone from trying to use the temporary access way.

Mrs. Reynolds asked if there were phragmites (giant reed grass) in the pond. Mr. Madore stated no, just cattails. Mrs. Reynolds noted cattails are native plants.

Mr. Puska stated all the work is within the upland review area.

MOTION: Jeremy DeCarli moved to approve an Inland Wetlands Permit to gain access to swimming pool via a temporary driveway in upland review area, clean invasive vegetation out of a pond, grade sides of pond and seed for maintenance of pond. **Conditions:** 1. Standard Permit Conditions. 2. Special Conditions/Modifications – None. **Exhibits:** None. David Costa second. Motion carried unanimously.

6. Wetlands Enforcement Officer's Report

Mr. Puska had nothing new to report.

7. Approval/Correction of the Minutes

MOTION: Curt Chadwick moved to approve the 13 March 2017 minutes as submitted. Gail Reynolds second. Motion carried unanimously.

8. Adjournment

MOTION: Gail Reynolds moved to adjourn. Joe Stephens second. Motion carried unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:48 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Bunny Hall Batzner

Bunny Hall Batzner
Recording Clerk

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, 12 June 2017.