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Chester
Deep River
East Haddam
Essex
Haddam
Lyme
Old Lyme
Old Saybrook

January 29, 2024

Town of Haddam
Inland Wetlands Commission
Old Town Hall
21 Field Park Drive
Haddam, Connecticut 06438

ATTENTION: Jeremy DeCarli, Chairman and
Inland Wetlands Commission

Phone: 860-345-8531
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Email: selectasst@haddam.org

RE: Timber Harvest Permit at 110 Parmalee Road, Haddam
Map 26, Lot 4 – 23.36 Acres

Dear Chairman DeCarli and Town of Haddam Wetlands Commission,

The Connecticut River Gateway Commission (“Gateway”) urges Town of Haddam Wetlands Commission (“Commission”) to require reasonable harvesting standards in said Timber Harvesting Permit at 110 Parmalee Road. The property is extremely visible and prominent as seen from the Connecticut River. Although the property is located in the Gateway Conservation Zone, Gateway does not have jurisdiction over timber harvesting matters. However, as stewards of the Connecticut River view and ecology, Gateway respectfully submits the following comments on stream protection and aesthetic safeguards for consideration by Commission:

REASONABLE HARVESTING STANDARDS

- Harvesting of forest tree species is an integral part of forest management when reasonable harvesting standards are followed which maintain the productivity of land for continuous forest crops, improve wildlife habitat, and minimize negative environmental and aesthetic impacts.

SENSIBLE STREAM CARE AND PROTECTION

- All reasonable care should be required to protect flowing streams and other water bodies from siltation and other damage during harvest operations. Partial cuttings, designed to create uneven-aged stands, will normally be used within 100 feet of these water courses. No more

than fifty percent of the merchantable volume should be removed, taking care in the selection of leaf trees to minimize water temperature increases and visual impact.

- Care should be taken not to fell trees into or across streams. Logging debris accidentally dropped into streams and ponds must be promptly removed.
- After the completion of a harvest operation, banks at stream crossings will be graded and restored to approximate their original condition. Reseeding with an appropriate grass mixture may be required.
- Any and all temporary structures in or across streams will be removed upon completion of operations.

VITAL AESTHETIC SAFEGUARDS

- Within approximately 100 feet of any automobile road, recreation trail or other recreation area, or boundary line in proximity to any dwelling, harvesting of trees will be partial cuttings. Not more than 50% of the merchantable volume shall be removed. In this high-visibility area at 110 Pamalee Road, uneven-age stands are required to provide change and variety in scenery.
- Special attention will be given to leaving unique tree specimens, flowering shrubs (i.e., Mountain Laurel) and trees, or those species that have value as food producers or den sites for birds and wildlife.
- No slash will be left within 25 feet of any automobile road, established recreation trail or stream.
- A clear-cut area presents a severe visual impact on the Connecticut River requiring the following restrictions:
 1. Maximum of 5 acres in size.
 2. Irregular in shape – avoid linear cutting bounds.
 3. Soften edges by partial cutting within 50 – 100 feet of clear-cut boundaries.
 4. Screen clear-cut areas with border strips along roads, trails or other areas of heavy public use.
 5. Leave ridge tops uncut – these areas are the most visible.
 6. In most cases, even-aged management may be accomplished through shelterwood cuttings rather than clear-cutting.
- Special consideration shall be given to those border strips where screen clear-cuts, shelterwood cuttings or other heavy cuts would be deleterious to the landscape aesthetics.

THE LOWER CONNECTICUT RIVER

- “The Lower Connecticut River and Coastal Region is one of the most fruitful and attractive natural systems in the temperate world. Ocean frontage, rich fresh and saltwater wetlands,

fertile fields, productive forests, trap rock ledges, and cedar swamps all gather here around the final watersheds of the Connecticut, one of the continent's great rivers. Unlike nearly all the other major river mouths on the planet, the lower Connecticut culminates in Long Island Sound through a largely unspoiled natural landscape that still retains most of its inherent integrity and its function as an intact ecosystem." **INHERITANCE, A Remarkable Conservation Legacy – The Lower Connecticut River and Coastal Region**, page 3, published by Lower Connecticut River Valley Council of Governments (2016).

Gateway thanks Commission for its great work and consideration of the aforementioned comments on stream care & protection; and vital aesthetic safeguards to preserve our beautiful, treasured Connecticut River.

For the Connecticut River Gateway Commission,

Susan W. Beckman

Susan W. Beckman, Regional Planner, RiverCOG
Staff to Gateway Commission

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