

**TOWN OF HADDAM
INLAND WETLANDS COMMISSION
TOWN HALL
21 FIELD PARK DRIVE, HADDAM, CT
TUESDAY, 16 FEBRUARY 2016
PUBLIC MEETING
APPROVED MINUTES
*Approved as Submitted at the 11 April 2016 Meeting***

ATTENDANCE

X	Paul Best, Secretary
A	Curt Chadwick
X	Jeremy DeCarli (7:04 p.m.)
X	Dan Iwanicki, Vice Chairman
A	Joe Stephens
X	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. M. Stephens, chairman, called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and all regular and alternate members were seated.

Mr. M. Stephens welcomed new alternate members Mr. Costa and Mrs. Reynolds to the Commission.

2. Additions/Corrections to the Agenda

None.

3. Public Comment

None.

4. Old Business

a. Perma Treat Corporation, Applicant. Seth and Robert Miller, Et Al, Owner. Property Address: Chamberlain Hill Road, Higganum, CT. Assessor's Map 02, Assessor's Lot 018. Proposed Activity: Timber Harvest.

Josh Miller, certified forester, Perma Treat Corporation, was present.

This is a continuation from 11 January 2016 (held) and 8 February 2016 (postponed due to snow).

Mr. Puska stated that a couple of people had questions pertaining to property lines for both applications and Mr. Miller was advised to be present should these individuals decide to attend the meeting to voice their concerns.

Mr. Miller reported that the mailing receipts were submitted to the Land Use Dept. Mr. Iwanicki asked if there was an issue with the application. Mr. Miller reported that Garianne Chiarella, a neighbor to the

northwest corner of the harvest, was concerned about how the harvest will affect drainage on the property. Mr. Miller stated that he advised her that it wouldn't affect the wetlands draining towards her property (no drainage from the harvest location) or to the wetlands in general. Mr. Miller also stated that Ms. Chiarella was worried about basement flooding; and that she was satisfied with the response and would not be attending the meeting.

Mr. M. Stephens asked Mr. Puska if he had viewed the site. Mr. Puska stated no. Mr. Puska asked if anyone else had made it to the site. The Commissioners in attendance indicated they had not viewed the site. Mr. Puska stated that Mr. Worthley may have viewed the site, but couldn't confirm one way or another.

Mr. Iwanicki asked Mr. Puska if he'll be making a site inspection prior to Mr. Miller starting the project. Mr. Puska stated he could. Mr. Iwanicki asked if he normally would do a site inspection. Mr. Puska stated it would depend on the circumstances and that he doesn't go out on every one.

Mr. Iwanicki voiced concern that no one had viewed the site and that it would have been nice if someone had prior to the snow coming in. Mr. Iwanicki noted that there is one wetland crossing proposed (indicated as a corduroy crossing). Mr. Iwanicki asked Mr. Miller if he could let Mr. Puska know when he will be on site in order to view the site. Mr. Miller asked if the Commission would like a time limit to notify the WEO. Mr. Iwanicki stated two week notice.

MOTION: Dan Iwanicki moved to approve the timber harvest of approximately 65,000 board feet of timber and one wetland crossing as described in Exhibit "A" and shown on map submitted RECEIVED January 1, 2016 LAND USE OFFICE. See map on file in the Land Use Office. **Conditions:** 1. Standard Permit Conditions. 2. Special Conditions/Modifications - Yes. a. Give two (2) week notice to Wetlands Enforcement Officer (WEO). Paul Best second. Motion carried unanimously.

b. Perma Treat Corporation, Applicant. Paul and Maribel Best, Owners. Property Address: 184 Old County Road, Higganum, CT 06441. Assessor's Map 60, Assessor's Lot 035. Proposed Activity: Timber Harvest.

Josh Miller, certified forester, Perma Treat Corporation, was present.

This is a continuation from 11 January 2016 (held) and 8 February 2016 (postponed due to snow).

Mr. Best recused himself.

Prior to the vote on the motion, Mr. Puska reported that he received a phone call from Chris Bell pertaining to the property line. Mr. Miller reported that he spoke to Mr. Bell, a neighbor to the northwest corner of the property, and described to him that all of his posted signs were still intact and in place. Mr. Puska asked Mr. Miller if he met with Mr. Bell. Mr. Miller stated no, that during the telephone conversation, he described the location of the posted signs and the locations were consistent with what was indicated on the map. Mr. Miller stated that Mr. Bell had indicated that he would be present.

Mr. Iwanicki asked if the mailing receipts had been submitted. Mr. Puska stated that they were submitted to the Land Use Dept.

Mr. M. Stephens asked about the crossing and when the project will start. Mr. Miller stated the project will not begin until the summer and that there may need to be a little bit of corduroy placed here and there, but nothing major.

Mr. Puska asked who will be doing the cutting. Mr. Miller stated Phil Hancock will be cutting the timber.

MOTION: Dan Iwanicki moved to approve the timber harvest of approximately 85,000 board feet of timber wetland crossings to be installed if needed. Area of work shown on map submitted RECEIVED January 1, 2016 LAND USE OFFICE. See map on file in the Land Use Office. **Conditions:** 1. Standard

Permit Conditions. 2. Special Conditions/Modifications – No. Gail Reynolds second. Motion carried unanimously.

5. New Business

None.

6. Wetlands Enforcement Officer's Report

Aquatic Pesticide Permit – Mr. M. Stephens briefly reviewed a permit from the state pertaining to Marcus Pond on Sima Road. Discussion followed in regard to the use of pesticides and how they may affect other areas downstream.

Inland Wetlands Application, Revised – Mr. Puska reviewed with the Commission minor updates to the application and asked their opinion. Mr. M. Stephens asked what the Commission's name is. Mr. Puska stated it should be the Haddam Inland Wetlands Commission. Mr. Best asked about watercourses. Mr. DeCarli stated the Commission's name should follow the statutes. After a review of the revised application, the Commission agreed with the revisions.

Agent Approvals – Town of Haddam, Public Works Dept., Blue Hills Road – Mr. Puska reported that there's a small gravel section that's very narrow for passage of vehicles and the town wanted to create sufficient travel space to allow for a plow truck and another vehicle to pass safely. The project consisted of cutting some trees and brush on the shoulders of the road. Mr. Puska stated that all work was in the upland review area. Mr. M. Stephens asked if the Town of Durham had been notified. Mr. Puska stated yes, that he faxed over a copy of the project. **Town of Haddam, Public Works Dept., Candlewood Hill Road** – Mr. Puska reported the same type of work, as for Blue Hills Road, is proposed for this location – a small bit of clearing and filling with the installation of guard rail where there's a bit of a drop off.

Mr. Puska reported that both projects have been reviewed by Jacobson and Associates; that he's reviewed the projects with Jeff Jacobson, town engineer; and that the town (Lizz Milardo, First Selectman) has signed off on the projects.

Evergreen Subdivision – Mr. Best reported that the Commission approved a wetlands permit on this subdivision and that he recalled the Commission requesting that work/building not take place in the wetlands behind the houses. Mr. Best reported that as he was traveling Beaver Meadow Road - going west, right side, at a 45 degree angle - he witnessed a new road (not a skid trail or path) going straight into the woods. Mr. Puska stated he brought this matter to the Commission when he received the application and that it has nothing to do with the subdivision as far as a connecting road. Mr. Best stated he's concerned about the wetlands. Mr. Puska stated it's in the upland review area, but not in the wetlands. Mr. Puska stated that the homeowner of the last house on Evergreen Road wanted a garage, the problem being he had an area in the back, but the elevations were so steep on his property it would be impractical to try and get access to it from his yard. Mr. Puska stated that the homeowner asked if they could make a separate driveway off of Beaver Meadow to access the garage. Mr. Best stated it's a long way around to gain access to a garage. Mr. Puska stated it just goes to the location where the garage is to be built and does not go to the subdivision road. Mr. Best reported that there is a road going down through Evergreen with guard rail. Mr. Puska stated it isn't an access way, it was just while they were doing work there. Mr. Best asked if there was a wetland down there. Mr. Puska stated yes, but the driveway runs parallel to the wetlands. Mr. Best questioned whether the homeowner would not be walking or driving through the wetlands. Mr. Puska stated he will either walk down or drive around to enter the Beaver Meadow Road driveway. Mr. Puska stated that the site plan was drawn up by Lambert Engineering. Discussion followed at length with Mr. Best stating he witnessed the area having been plowed and that guard rail has been installed. Mr. Iwanicki asked Mr. Puska if a building permit has been issued; and if the Commission reviewed the matter. Mr. Puska stated yes, there is a permit of record; and that he brought the matter before the Commission and it was done as an agent approval as there was no work within the wetlands. The Commission had no recollection of the matter. Mr. Puska stated that there's a buffer area that's to be planted on both sides as there was an area that was close, but not in the

wetlands. Mr. DeCarli stated once the building is up, Mr. Puska will have an opportunity to review the site. Mr. Iwanicki stated the Commission would not want to wait that long. Mr. Puska stated that it may be a driveway connecting, but not a road. Mr. M. Stephens advised Mr. Puska to watch this space. Mr., Iwanicki and Mr. Best voiced their concern that it will become easier to just drive straight down to the garage rather than around. Mr. Iwanicki stated that he didn't recall hearing about this matter. Mr. Puska stated that the map shows he's out of the wetlands.

Mr. Iwanicki suggested the site plan be reviewed and if there are further concerns, the WEO can address the matter.

7. Approval/Correction of the Minutes

MOTION: Dan Iwanicki moved to approve the 11 January 2016 minutes as submitted. Paul Best second. Motion carried unanimously.

7a. Beaver Ledges, Haddam Land Trust

Mr. Best asked for an update. Mrs. Reynolds, also a member of the Haddam Land Trust (HLT) Board, explained that HLT has submitted their grant application (return date of August), their fund raising efforts (need to provide \$100,000), and that Ducks Unlimited will be making a donation after HLT hears back from the state.

8. Election of Officers

Nominations were: Mark Stephens, chairman; Dan Iwanicki, vice chairman; and Paul Best, secretary.

MOTION: Mark Stephens moved to approve the slate of officers as nominated – Mark Stephens, chairman; Dan Iwanicki, vice chairman, and Paul Best, secretary. Paul Best second. Motion carried unanimously.

8a. Jeremy DeCarli

Mr. M. Stephens congratulated Mr. DeCarli on his new position as town planner, Town of East Hampton. A brief discussion followed in regard to a potential conflict of meeting nights between Haddam and East Hampton and the ability to provide written input.

Mr. M. Stephens reported that Mr. DeCarli has volunteered to be on the Plan of Conservation and Development (POCD) subcommittee as well as Mrs. Reynolds and Mr. Worthley.

9. Adjournment

MOTION: Gail Reynolds moved to adjourn. Dan Iwanicki second. Motion carried unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Bunny Hall Batzner

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Recording Clerk

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, 14 March 2016.