

**TOWN OF HADDAM
WETLANDS COMMISSION
TOWN HALL
21 FIELD PARK DRIVE, HADDAM, CT
MONDAY, 11 JANUARY 2016
PUBLIC MEETING
UNAPPROVED MINUTES
*Subject to Approval by the Commission***

ATTENDANCE

X	Paul Best, Vice Chairman
A	Jeremy DeCarli
X	Dan Iwanicki, Secretary
X	Joe Stephens
X	Mark Stephens, Chairman
X	Tom Worthley
X	Curt Chadwick, 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 asked Mr. Chadwick if he would be interested in being full member. Mr. Chadwick stated yes. Mr. M. Stephens stated that there are two alternate positions available; and asked Mrs. Batzner to notify Lizz Milardo, First Selectman, and the Board of Selectmen (BOS).

2. Additions/Corrections to the Agenda

Add: under New Business - c. Haddam Land Trust, Beaver Ledges.

3. Public Comment

Haddam Land Trust, Beaver Ledges – Bill Cowan, President, Haddam Land Trust (HLT), gave a presentation pertaining to a 130 acre parcel, located in the southern end of town, which is very important to ecological preservation/conservation. Mr. Cowan reported that the parcel is adjacent to Cockaponset State Forest and Connecticut River Watershed Council property, all conserved properties. Mr. Cowan also reported that there are various types of wetlands on the parcel – vernal pools, large beaver pond, open cattail marsh, red cedar swamp, three streams that run across the parcel – one is Roaring Brook an identified wild brook trout stream.

Using an additional map, Mr. Cowan pointed out the parcel is question noting the forest coverage and the surrounding parcels where there's development and fragmentation of the forest. Mr. Cowan stated a critical factor for wildlife conservation is having large parcels that aren't cut up by development.

Mr. Cowan suggestion reading Chapters 8 and 9, Recreation and Natural Resources, through the Plan of Conservation and Development and how most of it applies to this parcel. Mr. M. Stephens stated that he had emailed information to the Commission and a letter has been drafted by Liz Glidden, Town Planner, which the Commission will discuss later in the meeting.

Mr. M. Stephens asked if the lots on the west side of the parcel are under conservation. Mr. Cowan stated not all of them, but some are under P.A. 490 (Forestry).

Mr. Puska asked the location of the proposed public access. Mr. Cowan pointed out the roads that circle the property and noted that access will off of Dudley Clark Road.

Mr. Best asked the significance of the letter of support. Mr. Cowan stated that the HLT is applying for an open space land acquisition grant from DEEP and one of the requirements is providing letter of support from the community, town commissions, and other conservation minded organization. Mr. Best asked why the state didn't buy it. Mr. Cowan stated the state is interested; however, due to the process for appraisals, the state and the property owner couldn't come to an agreement. Mr. Cowan explained how the HLT became involved and now have an option to buy the parcel. Mr. Chadwick asked if the idea is to have the parcel become state forest and the HLT is buying the parcel in the interim. Mr. Cowan stated it will become HLT property and that there currently is a conservation easement on it which requires it be open to the public. Mr. Chadwick asked if there is ever an intention for the property to become state property. Mr. Cowan stated not at this time.

4. New 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, licensed CT forester, Perma Treat Corporation, was present.

Mr. Miller stated that access to the site will be from Chamberlain Hill Road an existing road that is used as a right-of-way between the American Power Co. and the land owners. There will be one proposed landing site on that right-of-way and one wetland crossing. Using the map with the packet, Mr. Miller pointed out the location of the harvest (western portion of the property); and stated that the goals of the harvest are to remove storm damaged trees and to thin the rest of the property to sustain the oak population for the future. Mr. Miller stated that marking of the trees is almost complete.

Mr. M. Stephens asked if notification has been made to the adjacent property owners. Mr. Miller stated that he still has to mail the notification letters out.

Mr. M. Stephens asked the amount of timber to be removed. The application indicates approximately 65,000 board feet of timber to be removed. Mr. Miller stated that the timber harvest will take place on approximately 25 acres of the 120 acre parcel.

Mr. Miller stated that approximately 100 feet of corduroy will be used for one wetland area that is currently being used by ATVs and that a mat may be placed down in another area. Mr. M. Stephens suggested the placement of slash and other debris to discourage the ATVs. Mr. Miller stated he will need to ask the land owners.

Mr. Iwanicki asked Mr. Miller if he's been on the property in the last day or so since to the rain. Mr. Miller stated no, but the site is relatively dry and rocky.

Mr. J. Stephens asked if the skids roads are in. Mr. Miller stated that he still needs to flag the skid roads in, but the main road will be the trail that the ATVs use.

Mr. Iwanicki asked Mr. Puska to review the site and notify the Commission if a site walk is required. Mr. M. Stephens asked Mr. Puska if he'd been on site with Mr. Puska responding no.

Mr. Miller stated that he would like to begin work before the end of winter. Mr. Worthley stated that the project could begin in the areas where there are no wetlands crossing. Mr. Miller stated that he would like to start the project at one time.

Mr. J. Stephens asked about the type of equipment that will be used on the project. Mr. Miller stated a chainsaw and grapple skidder.

Item continued until Monday, 8 February 2016.

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, licensed CT forester, Perma Treat Corporation, was present.

Mr. Best recused himself and left the table.

Mr. Miller stated that there has been a timber harvest on the parcel within the last eight to ten years and that for this project less than 85,000 board feet will be removed from 34 acres. Mr. Miller stated the harvest will take place in a couple of sections on the parcel – one to the north and one to the south; and that there are different stands creating different goals. Mr. Miller reported that there will be no stream crossings, but there may be one corduroy area. Mr. Miller also reported that the project is not planned until the summer time and dry conditions.

Mr. Miller stated that chainsaws, wheeled harvester, and a forwarder will be used on the project.

Mr. Best gave a brief history of the parcel since he's lived on it noting that a rather large cut took place approximately 15 years ago and eight years ago a smaller cut and the proposed cut will be the largest. Mr. Best stated that there are three very distinct skid trails on the parcel.

Mr. Miller stated one area is not too accessible during the winter time and the area is rather rocky; whereas, the western part has deeper soils. Mr. Miller stated that they will not be crossing the brook as they will be going to the respective landings for each area.

Mr. Iwanicki had a question pertaining to the first map in the packet as it showed a skid road going into the wetlands. Mr. Miller stated yes, but it will not be a heavily used skid road. Mr. Miller also stated that the road may be slightly off.

Mr. M. Stephens asked if notification has been made to the adjacent property owners. Mr. Miller stated that he still has to mail the notification letters out.

Mr. M. Stephens asked if the trees have been marked. Mr. Miller stated yes.

Mr. J. Stephens asked for an explanation of corduroy. Mr. Miller explained. Mr. Worthley elaborated a bit more on the description.

Mr. Miller was advised that he does not need to attend the next meeting; however, the Certificates of Mailing for both projects will need to be submitted prior to the meeting.

Item continued until Monday, 8 February 2016.

Mr. Best was reseated and returned to the table.

c. Haddam Land Trust, Beaver Ledges

Mr. Iwanicki asked if Mr. M. Stephens had made the revision that the letter is coming from the Commission as a whole rather than just the chairman. Mr. M. Stephens read a small portion of the letter. The Commission felt the word that the Commission unanimously supported the proposal be added into the letter.

MOTION: Dan Iwanicki moved to approve the chairman forwarding a letter to the DEEP, Open Space and Watershed land Acquisition Grant Program, dated 11 January 2016, in support of the acquisition of Beaver Ledges, Lot 64-002. Tom Worthley second. Motion carried unanimously.

5. Old Business

None.

6. Wetlands Enforcement Officer's Report

Eversource, Bridge Rehabilitation, Off of Candlewood Hill Road – Mr. Puska stated that a few years back CL&P, now Eversource, renovated a bridge crossing in the same area; and that they must do the same to a second crossing, on the same parcel as the previous renovation project, to obtain access to a second parcel. Mr. Puska also stated that the old wooden structure will be removed, restructure some of the rocks to support the new bridge, install rip rap, and extend the driveway to support the wooden bridge. Mr. Puska stated that last job was quick.

Mr. Worthley asked why Eversource would need two bridges. Mr. Puska stated that it's to another end of their property. Mr. Puska stated the bridge is located at 412 Candlewood Hill Road. A brief discussion followed in regard to Dream Meadow Farm (they share the driveway).

5 Ledge Road – Mr. Iwanicki asked if the applicant filed for his building permit. Mr. Puska stated yes, the applicant came in right away.

7. Approval/Correction of the Minutes

MOTION: Joe Stephens moved to approve the 13 October 2015 minutes as submitted. Curt Chadwick second. Motion carried unanimously.

8. Adjournment

MOTION: Dan Iwanicki moved to adjourn. Tom Worthley second. Motion carried unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Bunny Hall Batzner

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Recording Clerk

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, 8 February 2016.