

TOWN OF HADDAM
WETLANDS COMMISSION
HADDAM TOWN HALL
21 FIELD PARK DRIVE, HADDAM, CT
MONDAY, 13 APRIL 2015
PUBLIC MEETING
UNAPPROVED MINUTES
Subject to Approval by the Commission

ATTENDANCE

X	Paul Best, Vice Chairman
X	Jeremy DeCarli
A	Dan Iwanicki, Secretary
A	Joe Laurenza
A	Joe Stephens
X	Mark Stephens, Chairman
X	Tom Worthley
A	Mal Gorin, Alternate
X	Robin Maule, 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.

2. Additions/Corrections to the Agenda

Add: Election of Officers.

The amendment to the agenda was unanimously approved by the Commission.

3. Public Comment

None.

4. Wetlands Enforcement Officer's Report

Mr. Puska reported that he had given agent approvals for an open deck on Hidden Lake and for a shed to be within 30 feet of the wetland on Hidden Lake Road (not on the lake itself).

Mr. M. Stephens and Mr. Worthley reported that there is an excavator located in the wetland review area on Candlewood Hill Road where it appears as if a parking pad is being constructed; and they asked Mr. Puska to look at the site to see what is taking place.

5. OLD BUSINESS

a. Bay State Forestry Service, Applicant. CT Yankee Atomic Power Co., Owner. Location: 362 Injun Hollow Road, Haddam (Haddam Neck). Assessor's Map #27, Assessor's Lot #008. Proposed Activity: Selective Timer Harvest of Approximately 111 Acres with Eight (8) Stream Crossings and within the Upland Review Area.

Brantley Buerger, Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation Manager, and Shae Hemingway, Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation Operations Specialist, were present.

Mr. M. Stephens reported that the following attended the Site Walk held on Saturday, 11 April: Robin Maule, Paul Best, Jeremy DeCarli, Tom Worthley, and Mark Stephens, all Wetlands Commissioners; Bill Harris, Haddam Neck resident; Jeff Snitkin and Mark Barry, both with Bay State; and Liz Glidden, Town Planner. The Commission did a selective look of the property and got an idea of the type of streams (intermittent runoff) – all crossings will have corduroy except for one where a bridge will be installed.

Mr. Worthley reported that the applicant didn't have much choice of where to put the road. Mr. Worthley noted that the applicant will be using the old existing horse trails and wagon and cart paths that were built for quarrying; therefore, those cartways would have been quite substantive in order to bear the weight of the quarry stones. Mr. Worthley stated that the final approaches to both landing areas are fairly steep and that it will be important that some type of diversions and water bars be installed at those locations at the completion of the job. Mr. Brantley agreed. Mr. Worthley stated that so long as the *Best Management Practice Guide* is utilized there should be no issue. Mr. Brantley stated that the last thing CY wants is for the hillside to wash down into the open area – check dams, swales, whatever it takes will be used.

Mr. M. Stephens asked about slash being left behind. Mr. Hemingway and Mr. Brantley both stated that on the other side of the property there is a problem with ATVs. Mr. Worthley stated that if some material is left for blocking the access way and trails, for sediment diversions, and to protect regeneration, it would serve a good purpose.

Prior to the vote, Mr. Puska suggested the Commission address Mr. Worthley's concerns pertaining to the landings within the motion.

MOTION: Robin Maule move to approve a sustainable long-term timber harvest with nine plus/minus (9 +/-) wetland crossings to promote wildlife enhancement, protect water quality, and grow a healthy forest composed of multiple ages classes with vertical diversity, as shown on map submitted RECEIVED March 4, 2014 LAND USE OFFICE. See map on file in the Land Use Office. **Conditions:** 1. Standard Permit Conditions. 2. Special Conditions/Modifications – Yes. a. Erosion control measures installed according to Best Management Practice Guide (CT-DEEP). Jeremy DeCarli second. Motion carried unanimously.

6. NEW BUSINESS

a. CT Yankee Atomic Power Co., Owner/Applicant. Location: 362 Injun Hollow Road, Haddam (Haddam Neck). Assessor's Map #27, Assessor's Lot #008. Proposed Activity: Selective Tree Trimming and Installation of Approximately 12 Utility Poles within Wetlands.

Brantley Buerger, Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation Manager, and Shae Hemingway, Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation Operations Specialist, were present.

Mr. Buerger informed the Commission as of this afternoon Connecticut Yankee Atomic Power Co. and Connecticut DEEP reached an agreement on conditions for removal of the canal boom. Mr. Buerger reported that it took some time to put in some compensatory money that will allow CY to remove the boom without degrading the protective strategy of the property.

Mr. Buerger submitted into the record an 8.5 inch by 11 inch map indicating the location of three (3) surveillance cameras and the distance between each (Exhibit A). Using a full size map, Mr. Buerger reported that in order to remove the boom to allow public access to the canal and to continue to detect

suspicious or illegal activity (both of which were detected prior to the re-installation of the boom) within the canal that surveillance would be required. As an historical note, Mr. Buerger stated the boom has been there for over 40 years, came out in 2007, and re-installed in 2013 when illegal activity was witnessed within the canal. Mr. Buerger reported that CY received objection from the public in regard to visibility and then the national fishing organizations challenged whether the canal was a public trust waterway. Using the map, Mr. Buerger pointed out CY's property line and noted that CY dug the area out as a canal which put the area into limbo. Mr. Buerger further reported that rather than challenge the matter through the court system, CY will install surveillance cameras (dual head visual thermal cameras – can see in daylight and total darkness - long range, zoom) and PA system to communicate with people in the canal. Again using the map, Mr. Buerger pointed out the proposed location of the three (3) cameras and 12 utility poles as well as the existing poles. Mr. Buerger stated that the cameras will run up to the alarm station, which is manned around the clock, where they will be monitored and assessed as to what is taking place. Mr. Buerger also stated that the purpose of the utility poles is for the installation of the cameras, to bring power to the cameras, bring the signal back on fiber, and then everything else can be run on the existing pole line.

Mr. Buerger stated that there are two concerns: 1) Safety concerns for boaters using the canal. Propose removal of a number of leaning and fallen trees. Using his computer, Mr. Buerger showed photos of some of the trees in question. A brief discussion followed in regard to beaver and storm damage with it being noted that this will be an ongoing maintenance issue. 2) Establishing sightline for the cameras. Will require some selective trimming/cutting of trees.

Mr. Best and Mr. Worthley asked if there will be a security boat within the canal and if there will be signage, respectively. Mr. Buerger stated that there will be no security boat and that DEEP and CY will be posting signs along the banks. Mr. Buerger also stated that DEEP will patrol the canal on a routine basis and CY's piece is the installation of cameras. Mr. Puska asked how the public will be made aware of the removal of the boom. Mr. Buerger stated that there will be a number of press releases. Mr. Buerger reported that the boom will be pulled back and stored in a staging area for reinstallation only if directed by state or federal regulators should there be a heightened security situation. Mr. Buerger also reported that he will need to speak to Melissa Schlag, First Selectman, to receive a new permit to allow reinstallation of the boom in the event of a security situation. Mr. Buerger noted that the Connecticut State Police have requested this option.

Mr. M. Stephens asked who will be doing the tree work. Mr. Buerger stated that CY will probably use the successful bidder of the timber harvest so long as they can show they can operate safely and do a good job. A brief discussion followed.

Using his computer, Mr. Buerger showed the Commission drone video footage taken by Mr. Hemingway of the canal and pointed out the location of the cameras, the utility poles (all can be set from the roadway except for one), and some of the trees to be removed. It was also noted that the canal area is screened by the peninsula.

A brief discussion followed in regard to the length of the permit – five (5) years with an extension of five (5) years as well as routine maintenance (ZEO to be notified) that will be attached to the permit.

Discussion followed in regard to approving the application with Mr. Buerger noting that there is a lot of public interest in opening the canal as quickly as possible and all work including the pulling of the boom is dependent upon the issuance of the wetlands permit. Further discussion followed in regard to time frames and posting of the Notice of Decision.

MOTION: Paul Best moved to approve the installation of utility poles and the trimming of trees in the wetlands. See map on file in the Land Use Office. Map References: Dated 4/8/2015 and 4/13/2015.
Conditions: 1. Standard Permit Conditions. 2. Special Conditions/Modifications – Yes. a. There is a 15 day waiting period for the allowance of a public petition to call for a hearing. Tom Worthley second. Motion carried unanimously.

7. Approval/Correction of the Minutes

MOTION: Tom Worthley moved to approve the 9 March 2015 minutes as submitted. Jeremy DeCarli second. Motion carried unanimously.

8. Election of Officers

MOTION: Tom Worthley moved to approve the slate of officers as follows: Mark Stephens, chairman; Paul Best, vice chairman; and Dan Iwanicki, secretary. Robin Maule second. Motion carried unanimously.

9. Adjournment

MOTION: Paul Best moved to adjourn. Robin Maule 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, 11 May 2015.