

TOWN OF HADDAM
WETLANDS COMMISSION
HADDAM TOWN HALL
21 FIELD PARK DRIVE, HADDAM, CT
MONDAY, 9 MARCH 2015
PUBLIC MEETING
UNAPPROVED MINUTES
Subject to Approval by the Commission

ATTENDANCE

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

2. Additions/Corrections to the Agenda

None.

3. Public Comment

None.

4. Wetlands Enforcement Officer's Report

Connecticut Yankee (CY), Surveillance Installation – Mr. Puska reported that he has spoken to a CY representative pertaining to this project and an application is forthcoming.

5. OLD BUSINESS

None.

6. NEW 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 Timber Harvest of Approximately 111 Acres with Eight (8) Stream Crossings and within the Upland Review Area.

Jeff Snitkin and Eric Radlof, foresters, Bay State Forestry Services, were present.

Mr. Snitkin reported that Connecticut Yankee has hired Bay State Forestry Services to conduct a sustainable timber harvest; and that he, Mr. Radlof, and Mike Barry, a Connecticut licensed forester and also with Bay State, will all be working on the project.

Mr. Snitkin reviewed the application package submitted and asked if the primary concern was the wetland crossings. Mr. M. Stephens stated that the Commission is concerned with the crossings as well as how much of the canopy over running waters, ponds, lakes, etc., will be removed. Mr. M. Stephens asked Mr. Puska if he had viewed the project site. Mr. Puska stated no.

Mr. M. Stephens asked if the area had been marked and if the abutters had been notified. Mr. Snitkin stated the area has been marked and that notification was sent to three (3) abutters. Certified Mail Receipts were submitted (Exhibit A). The two maps submitted with the application and the Wetlands Commission Forestry Practices Regulations, 5. Commercial Cutting (Outside Gateway Conservation Zone), B (1) b were reviewed in regard to notification of the abutters.

Mr. M. Stephens asked if the crossings have been determined and how they will be handled. Mr. Snitkin stated crossings have been marked; and using the map and stream crossings page from the packet, reviewed these items with the Commission. Mr. Iwanicki asked when and how the stream crossings were determined. Mr. Snitkin stated that he did it on the ground last week. Mr. Iwanicki asked if there was flowing water. Mr. Snitkin stated in some spots.

Mr. M. Stephens asked when the project will start and if Bay State or another cutter will be coming in. Mr. Snitkin stated 1 June; however, the project will need to go out to bid which can't be done until a wetlands permit is in place.

Mr. Iwanicki asked who established the wetlands/watercourses locations and how the applicant knows where the crossings are and how extensive the crossing will be. Mr. Snitkin stated that he used GPS to locate the wetlands/watercourses by walking the site and that most of the crossings are from existing trails (information taken at those crossings). Mr. Snitkin stated that the plan is to use as many existing trails as possible.

The Commission asked various questions such as when the site was last cut (approximately 20 years ago), type of timber to be removed (various species), and purpose of harvest – financial gain, habitat improvement, both or other reasons (Mr. Snitkin stated he couldn't legally respond as he's not licensed in Connecticut).

Mr. Iwanicki asked for a copy of the Gateway Commission memo. Mr. M. Stephens stated that he forwarded the memo to the Commission. Mrs. Batzner provided a copy of the memo for review.

Mr. Puska stated that CY will be submitting a second application with wetlands map pertaining to work in the same area as the timber harvest. Mr. Puska also stated that the wetland map for the second application will contain all the information being requested for this application.

Mr. J. Stephens asked if the swampy areas delineate what is considered wetland boundaries. Mr. Snitkin stated that the areas were marked by GPS and walking the field. A brief discussion followed in regard to the number of areas to be cut (two). Mr. Snitkin asked if the Commission wanted to see the area completely marked. Mr. Iwanicki stated yes. Mr. Snitkin stated that the boundaries will be marked in pink.

Mr. J. Stephens asked what type of equipment will be used. Mr. Snitkin stated a skidder and chain saw with the potential for some other equipment, but no chipper. Mr. DeCarli asked how long the project will go on for. Mr. Snitkin stated within the year, but if ground conditions aren't suitable, it can be extended.

Mr. M. Stephens asked how many board feet will be removed. Mr. Iwanicki stated the application indicates 180,000 board feet. Mr. Snitkin stated that there are mostly hardwoods growing in the area, but all species will be harvested.

Areas that the Commission would like to see during the site walk: 1) stream crossings; 2) impacts to wetlands that may be created by the felling of trees and/or the skidder; 3) what utilizations will be used to make the crossings; and 4) flagging of the wetlands (use information from other application). Mr. Iwanicki stated the less impact the better. Mr. Snitkin agreed. A brief discussion followed in regard to addressing the visibility from the river and skid trail lengths (typically not flagged out until the operation is ongoing or right before hand). Mr. M. Stephens stated that it's required that ten (10) days prior to the commencement of work, Mr. Puska be notified to review the site.

Mr. Snitkin clarified that he and Mr. Radlof are both licensed foresters just not in Connecticut and that they are working under Mr. Barry who is a licensed Connecticut forester.

Mr. Iwanicki asked about a signature from the property owner. Mr. Puska stated that Brantley Buerger signed as owner.

SITE WALK: Saturday, 11 April 2015, 9 a.m. Meet at the gate at the end of Injun Hollow Road.

6a. Chairman's Report

Letter of Thanks – Mr. M. Stephens read a letter from Jason Nemergut on behalf of Jeff Moskey, thanking the Commission for meeting early to accommodate a financing dead line date.

Reappointments – Mr. M. Stephens reported that the Board of Selectmen reappointed Mr. Iwanicki, Mr. Worthley, and he at their 18 February 2015 meeting (terms to expire 1 May 2017). Mr. M. Stephens will speak to those members whose terms will expire this May to see if they wish to seek reappointment.

7. Approval/Correction of the Minutes

MOTION: Dan Iwanicki moved to approve the 12 January 2015 and 18 February 2015 minutes as submitted. Joe Stephens second. Motion carried unanimously.

8. Election of Officers

Tabled.

9. Adjournment

MOTION: Dan Iwanicki moved to adjourn. Joe Stephens second. Motion carried unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Bunny Hall Batzner

Bunny Hall Batzner
Recording Clerk

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, 13 April 2015.