

Town of Willington
Inland Wetland and Watercourse Commission
March 25, 2024
Meeting Minutes

A. Call to Order/Roll Call

Patrick Lord called the meeting to order at 7:37pm

B. Seating of Alternates

Patrick Lord
Mark Drobney
Ralph Tulis
David Jordan

C. Applications To be Received

None

D. Approval of Minutes

10/02/2023 – R. Tulis motioned to move them to the next meeting. M. Drobney seconded. All in favor.

E. Public Hearing

1. TH-24-1: Commission initiated amendments to Town of Willington Forest Practices Regulations Section 5.6 and 5.10 pertaining to application requirements and notices to adjoining landowners.

M. D'Amato mentioned that the changes were referred to DEEP. We are required to provide them with an opportunity to comment. We have heard back from the forestry division. Everything looked good, they did not have any concerns and thought that the revisions made sense, particularly based upon some of the issues that have come up recently. Following adoption, this would then get referred back to the state for the official signature and endorsement of the revised regs. This hearing was noticed in the newspaper as required.

The Commissioners brought up questions on the wording of the regulations. IT was recommended that instead of saying, "such notice shall be sent certificate of mailing not more than seven days.", you amend it to say, "sent by certificate of mailing."

D. Jordan asked if a motioned was needed to change this.

M. D'Amato said that a tally can be kept of all the changes and a motion be made at the end.

P. Lord motioned to approve the language and incorporate the additional amendments. D. Jordan seconded. All in favor.

F. New Business

1. TH-24-2: Selective Timber Harvest at 16 Mihaliak Rd Ext and 22 Polster Rd. Owner: J. Malack. Applicant: C. Mokrzecki.

P. Lord asked Chris Mokrzecki to walk us through the application.

C. Mokrzecki mentioned that there are wetlands on the property, but he will not be going near them. The skid roads on the map show no stream or wetlands crossings. He is going to be harvesting the pine that is on the edges of the two parcels. They will be landed away from the wetlands as well.

P. Lord asked if he was targeting just white pine.

C. Mokrzecki responded yes.

P. Lord asked if the skid roads were preexisting.

C. Mokrzecki said they partially are. There will be a couple new ones that will be into the trees that are there, but there are some existing ones.

P. Lord talked about the operational plan and how there is wetlands in the lower eastern corner of the 16 Mihaliak Rd EXT property.

C. Mokrzecki said that there are some down there but, the machine will never be there. If any trees are cut there, then they will be cabled out.

P. Lord reassured that they are not proposing any cutting withing the wetlands area.

C. Mokrzecki said no, the machine will not be in the wetlands or upland review area. If there are any trees that need to be cut the trees will be cabled out. There are a few on the edge that need to be cut down.

P. Lord said by the looks of your operational plan you will be leaving the slash and piles.

C. Mokrzecki answered that it will be lowered so that it looks the best it can.

P. Lord asked if this is to regenerate more pine growth.

C. Mokrzecki said that they are coming to the end of their life. They are large in size and going to tip over and be nothing. There are a couple that this has happened to on the site already, so before there is nothing to log, we might as well log.

D. Jordan asked if there were any red pines left.

C. Mokrzecki said no there are not. There are some mixed hardwoods but those are being left for the landowner to use as firewood.

P. Lord asked if they were using a forwarder.

C. Mokrzecki said that it is a cable skidder.

P. Lord asked if he would be performing this work with the 2012 CT DEEP BMPs for harvesting.

C. Mokrzecki said yes, he would be.

P. Lord asked if there was a clear break or edge to the wetland boundary that he noticed as far as for composition or a different kind of tree species. Just so when the guys are out there, and they can then be known that they are getting close to the wetlands.

C. Mokrzecki said that you can clearly see it. It is also in lower section in the ravines. The pine is all pretty much on the high sides.

P. Lord said the last question he has is that if being in the upland review area will trigger anything.

M. D'Amato said based on his description of work he will be keeping the machine out of those areas so there wouldn't be anything separate. It would be an activity you would review if he was coming before you in the same way. Really the only functional difference is that he doesn't submit a separate wetlands application. On the wetlands side this is an as of right activity, so they only real control would be the Timber Harvest side which is before you now.

R. Tulis said the only comment he'd like to add is his typical comment about invasive species and that he hopes the property owner is aware that by eliminating a lot of the evergreen tree cover will make it prone to invasive species.

C. Mokrzecki said that there will be smaller pine left for shading as well to help combat that.

R. Tulis motioned to approve the application. D. Jordan seconded. All in favor.

*2. IW-24-2: As of Right Determination Request for the installation of public water system piping at 327 Ruby Rd.
Owner: NC RJK Ruby Road LLC. Applicant: R. Peguero.*

P. Lord asked if there was anyone here to speak on this application.

James DeSellier introduced himself from Haley Ward Inc. He began to explain that this project includes the installation of two bedrock drinking water wells and well piping to a new water treatment facility. We are centralizing the water treatment and routing them into a new treatment building. This is part of a public drinking water supply system. We are staying outside of the wetland and will be installing a silt fence between the water lines and the wetlands area. We will be following the 2002 guidelines outlined on the second sheet of plans and have erosion and settlement control details noted there as well. The well lines are going to be installed withing the upland review area on the wetlands buffer.

P. Lord asked if they are going to be using any existing water lines or if these will all be new construction.

J. DeSellier said that the existing lines are going to be replaced and rerouted to the new treatment building. Currently they go into a vault so they will be rerouted to the new centralized water treatment system plant.

R. Tulis said that from his understanding the existing storage tank will remain, the existing pump station will remain, but it will not be accepting water from where it had been.

J. DeSellier said yes. Instead of having well lines will go directly into the storage tank and then being treated at al the independent buildings, they will be centralizing the water treatment into a central building so that the well lines will be routed there, the water will be cleaned, and it will then flow into the existing water storage tank and pressurized with the pump equipment in the existing bolt. It then gets sent out to the buildings clean.

D. Jordan asked if they are getting the GPM they need.

J. DeSellier said that they put in the application that it would be up to 50 gallons per a minute but are not sure if they'll achieve that. We are hoping to improve water quality with the two new bedrock wells and improve capacity.

D. Jordan asked how far down they will have to go.

J. DeSellier said that they are not sure.

D. Jordan asked what the previous wells were.

J. DeSellier said that he believes they are around 350', but they do vary from well to well.

R. Tulis asked if the existing wells are going to remain in use or be abandoned.

J. DeSellier said they will continue to be in use. They'll have new well piping installed.

P. Lord asked if they were in the upland review area.

J. DeSellier said yes, and then showed them on the map.

P. Lord said that it looks like the activities under our jurisdiction within the upland review area is the installation of the water line from well number 7 across and the drilling and installation of water lines for well number 8. He then asked where they intended to put up the erosion and sediment controls and what they consist of.

J. DeSellier said that they are not on this plan set but they are on the current drawings. They will go from the edge of the pavement coming up near wetland flag number 10 and then continuing all the way to the treatment building.

D. Jordan asked if it was permit.

J. DeSellier let him know that silt fence is temporary. Just during the construction until the pipes are in, and grass is established.

P. Lord asked if the installation of the majority of this water line is in an already developed parking lot.

J. DeSellier said that it is a tractor trailer parking lot and near well 7. One of the wells is actually located in the parking area and the other ones are just off the parking area at the edge of the pavement.

P. Lord asked how deep the water lines have to go, specifically the ones that are going to be going in near wetlands flag number 10.

J. DeSellier said the lines will be set 4.5 feet down.

P. Lord said that the critical area would be the top toe of wetland area 1. It looks like there will be a lot of digging up there.

J. DeSellier said that the lines will all be installed in a single trench. It can only be drawn so close together on the plan.

D. Jordan asked if it will be lined with pea stone or something like that.

J. DeSellier answered that it would have sand in the bottom of the trench, and then 6" of sand above the well lines and then packed and top soiled.

P. Lord asked a few questions about the as of right, and what conditions are appropriate. The final decision was to make it clear to everyone on the commission and in the public understands that this is an as of right activity for a public water drinking supply and that we're not issuing a permit we're issuing a determination.

M. D'Amato said he was correct.

D. Jordan motioned to approve the as of right determination request with the condition that the final/updated be provided. Second by R.Tulis. All in Favor

G. Old Business

None

H. Correspondence

1. Loves Travel Stop: Roaring Brook Water Quality Monitoring Report

M. D'Amato explained that these reports are required as part of the commission's approval of the project.

R. Tulis asked if M. D'Amato knew how long after the completion of the project this monitoring was to continue.

M. D'Amato said that the wetlands commission under number 16 on the conditions list was that a water quality monitoring plan shall be provided, approved in consultation with DEEP. The plan shall include quarterly monitoring reports beginning from the start of work on the site and continuing for a period of at least 5 years from the issuance of the certificate of occupancy.

2. Loves Travel Stop: Groundwater Monitoring Report (Q4 2023)

I. Staff Report and Discussion

None

J. Public Comment

None

K. Adjournment

P. Lord adjourned the meeting at 8:28 pm

Respectfully submitted by Evelyn Delaney – Asst. Zoning Agent