

Bolton Inland Wetlands Commission
Regular Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, September 27, 2022 7:00 p.m.
Virtual Meeting utilizing Zoom

Members Present: Chairman Ross Lally and Vice Chairman James Loersch, Andrew Gordon and Alternate David Lynn (seated as a voting member)

Staff Present: Inland Wetlands Agents Barbara Kelly and Cameron Covill

Others Present: Joseph and Karlie Sicard

Chairman R. Lally called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

1. Approval of Agenda

A. Gordon made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. **D. Lynn seconded.** The motion passed unanimously 4:0:0.

2. Public Comment: None

3. Old Business: None

4. New Business:

A. Jurisdictional Ruling for Timber Harvest (#TH-22-3) – Joseph Sicard – 55 Tolland Rd.

Cameron Covill provided background information on the proposal. The Sicards plan to remove trees on their property to provide pasture land for two goats. The total parcel is approximately 6.7 acres. 5.5 to 6 acres will be cleared. Boundaries will be marked well before the harvest. Trees over ten inches in diameter will be removed using chain saws and a forwarder. The proposed start of the project is November 1, 2022, when the weather will be cooler and the ground will be firmer. Redoxamorphic soil with orange spots is a wetland indicator although it is not recognized as an indicator in Connecticut. The composition of the parcel consists mainly of red maple, hickory and beech. The undergrowth is quite thick with poison ivy and Japanese barberry. There are a couple of small intermittent streams. There was no flowing or standing water noted after a rain storm. C. Covill showed photos of the area and an aerial map overview.

Mr. Sicard noted that this won't be a clear cut. It will be a select harvest of primarily old growth. Trees will be marked and flagged. A landing area will be designated and an anti-tracking pad will be laid down. Goats don't require totally clear pasture but the land is unusable at this point. R. Lally clarified that the primary purpose of clearing the land is for agricultural use for the goats. J. Loersch asked if the parcel will be grubbed or will the stumps be removed. Mr. Sicard said that wouldn't be necessary as goats don't require a totally clear pasture. Letters have not yet been sent to the abutting neighbors

R. Lally noted that the application paperwork is incomplete. The Forest Practitioner Certificate is missing, the amount to be harvested is blank, no notation of where the landing pad will be and the stream crossings are not clear. He indicated that the forester is usually on the call in situations like this and the forester should have been

the one to complete the paperwork. It doesn't appear that there is enough information to make a decision. The IWC has no regulatory oversight once an affirmative decision is made.

R. Lally suggested asking the forester to provide a simple map of the property by pulling the land records and indicating where the harvest will be done, stream crossings, sedimentation controls, landing pad location, etc. .

A. Gordon and J. Loersch agreed that a map with those indicators would be helpful.

R. Lally noted that a decision will have to wait until the next IWC meeting on October 25, 2022. The Sicards could still get started in November and R. Lally and C. Covill could review the paperwork ahead of the next meeting. A professional should provide the map, not the homeowner. C. Covill can assist in filling out the paperwork and he offered to contact the forester.

B. Kelly noted as a heads up, a zoning permit is required for goats as they are considered livestock. Mr. Sicard noted that there will not be a permanent structure. They will just have a pallet house with a tarp and the structure may move from time to time.

R. Lally noted that the Sicards should attend the October IWC meeting with the appropriate paperwork and they should check with Planning and Zoning about owning goats.

5. Approval of Minutes:

A. August 23, 2022 Regular Meeting

Top of page 3, correct UCON to UCONN.

A. Gordon made a motion to accept the minutes as amended. **D. Lynn seconded.** The motion passed unanimously 4:0:0.

6. Wetlands Agent Report

C. Covill provided the report.

55 Tolland Road - He will continue to work with the applicants

1120 Boston Turnpike - The catch basin is vegetated.

837 Boston Turnpike – An expansion of the storm water basin is proposed.

271 Hop River Road - Construction debris is being cleared from the wetlands and upland area. A small stream crossing is planned for the rail trail connection as part of the overall site approval.

65 Shoddy Mill – A wetlands scientist, Richard Snarski, has been employed.

Villa Louisa is planning to add a bed and breakfast. There are no wetlands on the property.

A. Gordon questioned the property on the corner of Loomis Road and Hebron Road. There had been plans to build a house there but nothing has happened. B. Kelly noted that people have looked at the property but the house could only be a two-bedroom with no garage.

B. Kelly noted that the lot is still for sale at 170-180 Bolton Center Road. The sign is still up but no applications have been received.

7. Other:

B. Kelly sent an Email to the commission members about the upcoming CACIWC conference.

C. Covill noted that the SSSNNE (Soil Scientists Society of Northern New England) annual meeting is on the same day as the CACIWC meeting.

R. Lally spoke about the about Forest practices workshop that he attended along with C. Covill and B. Kelly. There were many different levels of forestry professionals present. They were able to observe how dead ash trees are removed and how equipment crosses wetland areas. C. Cameron found the legal information beneficial. R. Lally encouraged participation at these sorts of events.

8. Adjournment

A. Gordon made a motion to adjourn at 8:03 p.m. **D. Lynn seconded.** The motion passed unanimously 4:0:0.

Respectfully submitted,

Leslie J. Brand

Leslie Brand
Recording Clerk

Please see minutes of subsequent meetings for corrections to these minutes and any corrections hereto.