

Town of Stafford
Inland Wetlands Commission
Special Meeting
October 21, 2020
7:00 p.m. – Stafford Community/Senior Center

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Members Present: John D. Wilson, Acting Chairman
Barry Locke (Chair, attended remotely)
Kurt Mordasky
Hickory Lake
David Belcher
David Smith
David Mordasky, alternate

Also Present: David Perkins, ZEO
Matthew Vogt, President, New England Aquatic services, applicant
(attended remotely)
Stephen Hopko, applicant
Devin Cowperthwaite, Director of Public Works, Stafford (attended remotely)
Gary Giroux, Cardinal Engineering, for Town of Stafford applications
(attended remotely)

REGULAR MEETING:

AGENDA

1. Call to order.
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Establish a quorum
4. Review minutes of September 26, 2020
5. Wetlands Application by New England Aquatic Services – Pond restorations at Roaring Brook Campground. Owner: Roaring Brook Campground Association, Inc., 8 South Road.
6. Wetlands Application by Stephen Hopko – Restore pond, replace drainage system. Owner: Stephen Hopko, 164 Sartori Road.
7. Wetlands application by Town of Stafford, CT – Remediation plan Williamson Road bridge area.
8. Wetlands application by Town of Stafford, CT – Bridge Replacement Leonard Road Bridge.
9. Adjournment

1. Call to order.

John Wilson, Acting Chairman called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Recited.

3. Establish a quorum.

John Wilson established a quorum with John Wilson, Acting Chair, Barry Locke (attending remotely), Kurt Mordasky, Hickory Lake, David Belcher, David Smith, and seated alternate member Dr. David Mordasky for Tom Topping.

4. Review minutes of September 26, 2020 meeting.

Hickory Lake made a motion, seconded by David Mordasky to approve the minutes of the September 26, 2020 meeting. All were in favor. Motion carried.

5. Wetlands Application by New England Aquatic Services – Pond restorations at Roaring Brook Campground. Owner: Roaring Brook Campground Association, Inc., 8 South Road.

Matthew Vogt of New England Aquatic Services said his firm was contracted by Roaring Brook Campground to hydraulically-dredge two ponds. He expects to remove about 125 cubic yards of material from Indian Head Pond, and about 280 cubic yards of material from Wilderness Pond. The material will be dredged into dewatering tubes. The sediment will be left to dry and then disposed of in a stockpile to be used later as fill. He said the process should take one to two weeks. Matthew Vogt said Wilderness Pond has a culvert through which water runs into it along with sediment. They want to regain the depth lost in the pond from where muck has built up.

John Wilson asked when he expected to start the work. Matthew Vogt said about mid-December. No stockpiling will be done in the wetlands.

David Perkins said this is a simple, regulated activity they do all the time. Dave Mordasky asked if they take into consideration erosion that may build up. Matthew Vogt said they do, but in this case there is not a lot of area to address. This dredging is the result of about 20 years of buildup so they are not concerned that they will be looking at the situation again in a few years. He said, for the most part, they would be pulling out biological material such as leaves and weeds.

Dave Smith asked if the area is stable where they will be putting the dewatering tubes. Matt Vogt said it was. The area is wide open and they will be leveling the area.

Barry Locke asked if after the dredging is completed an as-built could be done to state the depths of the water so they can maintain the pond. Matt Vogt said he could prepare a depth measurement map as a follow-up.

There were no further questions or comments. Kurt Mordasky made a motion, seconded by David Mordasky, to accept the wetlands application by New England Aquatic Services to restore the two ponds discussed at Roaring Brook Campground, 8 South Road. All were in favor. Motion carried. David Perkins said he would send out the wetlands permit as soon as he receives payment.

**6. Wetlands Application by Stephen Hopko – Restore pond, replace drainage system.
Owner: Stephen Hopko, 164 Sartori Road.**

Stephen Hopko said he has been working with Director of Public Works Devin Cowperthwaite on this. Stephen said he met with David Perkins and drew up a plan. He explained that he has been monitoring this swamp/pond for about 29 years and he had maintained a duck house there. Over the years it has silted in terribly, and the severe drought had impacted the water level even more. He has proposed bringing someone in with heavy equipment to remove and haul away the silting material, but staying within the high water mark.

Stephen Hopko said he spoke with Devin Cowperthwaite and he looked at the problem with the existing culverts. He agreed that they needed to be repaired with the proper elevations and will provide a third pipe for emergency overflow. Devin would deliver the pipe when needed. Stephen Hopko said the Town agreed to close the road if he can bring in the machine to do the work. Stephen recommended a 45 degree slope on both sides and lining it with riprap stone. He said the culverts are failed and were not installed right.

Stephen Hopko said a big double swamp maple will be removed before the culverts are put in properly. He will need to create a temporary ramp to access the gradual grade. The only materials he will need are the pipe and one load of riprap stone. He said he expects the work to take only a few hours. He said a sign would be put up at New City and Sartori saying "Road Closed to Thru-Traffic" and one "Road Closed" sign at his driveway. A "Detour" or "Alternate Route" sign will be put up at North Road.

Stephen Hopko said his plan includes silt barriers, a temporary retention pond with barrier and staked hay bales. No alterations to the pond will be made beyond the existing high water mark.

David Mordasky asked where the removed silt will be placed. Stephen Hopko said if it is very wet, which he would expect it to be, there is an area for stockpiling and they would put in a silt fence. If it is dry enough, it would be trucked out sooner than later. The silt would eventually be used to make topsoil.

David Smith asked how big of an area will be dredged. Stephen Hopko said it would be about one acre.

David Perkins asked what the overall idea of the project is. Stephen Hopko said it is sad to see the pond turning to almost all grass as it has long been a great habitat for ducks and other wildlife. He would like to reclaim it. He said the silt is coming in through a crevice between two veins of ledge. He said he thinks they can get to the hardpan fairly quickly.

David Mordasky said it makes sense to replace the culvert and to keep the swamp and reed part at the entranceway, as that is aesthetically pleasing. It would be nice to reclaim the pond. Stephen Hopko said the work would cover approximately $\frac{3}{4}$ of the overall length of the area.

David Perkins said this work might require additional permits, such as from the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) or the Army Corps of Engineers. He said he will look into whether or not that will be necessary.

David Smith said this would be a big undertaking, questioning if dewatering pumps may be needed. Stephen Hopko said the idea is to dig out the existing pipe, put in new pipe and let it drain because that's below where they will be actually working. He said he planned to use Mark Klein out of Monson, Mass., for the excavation work. He said he is experienced with this type of work and if they can get to the hardpan on the edges, it would give them a roadway to work from to reach into the center of the pond.

David Smith added that he would have expected the town to fix the culverts since they are on a town road. It was noted, however, that the town has a long list of culverts that need repair and they might not get to them as quickly, so this is a good solution.

There were no further questions or comments. David Mordasky made a motion, seconded by Kurt Mordasky to approve the wetlands application by Stephen Hopko to restore the pond and replace the drainage system at 164 Sartori Road with the stipulation that the culvert replacement be done first and that the applicant comply with any necessary permits required. All were in favor. Motion carried.

7. Wetlands application by Town of Stafford, CT – Remediation plan Williamson Road bridge area.

Gary Giroux from Cardinal Engineering explained that the contractor working on the site was a bit over-ambitious about clearing the culvert and went beyond the designated clearing areas and into the wetlands destroying it in two areas. The contractor has put together a plan for restoring the wetlands, which will involve planting three trees and several shrubs. This will all be native, wetland-type foliage. They will also seed with a wetland seed mixture. They will start as soon as they get an approval, and Cardinal Engineering will be meeting with the contractor tomorrow. They want to get the work completed before the end of the month.

David Smith asked if the ground surface got graded. Gary Giroux said some regrading has been done, but they will need to bring in more topsoil.

David Perkins said grading will be needed and then erosion control. He said the brook moved into the upland review area, so they should want to harden the bank or the brook will scour into the wetland. He said he got an email from the property owner that the river flow needs to be rearranged or it will continue to do damage. Gary Giroux invited David Perkins to join them at the meeting tomorrow so that he can provide further direction, including where to add soil and boulders. He said the contractor may subcontract out the planting to a landscaper.

David Smith asked about the status of the job. Gary said the culvert has been delayed for about two months now. There were Covid-related issues with the fabrication of the culvert. However, the first sections of the culvert are expected to come in next week. The wing walls are getting formed. They realize this needs to get done soon.

John Wilson asked what would happen if this plan fails. He asked if there was a performance bond in place. Gary Giroux said there is a 100 percent performance bond. John Wilson said he is skeptical about the success of this plan and was concerned that a large number of plants may

die by next season. David Smith said the area will eventually fix itself naturally and that New England seed mix works well. David Perkins agreed that it should regenerate quickly. Gary Giroux noted they will establish the plantings as best they can before things are closed up in the winter, but they will return in the spring to do the final seeding. He said the town has retainage, plus a one-year maintenance bond.

There were no further questions or comments. David Smith made a motion, seconded by Hickory Lake, to approve the Wetlands application by the Town of Stafford for the remediation plan for the Williamson Road bridge area, with the understanding that the ZEO will be involved in the placement of reinforcements so the natural flow of water does not create further deterioration. All were in favor. Motion carried. David Perkins told Gary Giroux he would get the permit to him.

8. Wetlands application by Town of Stafford, CT – Bridge Replacement Leonard Road Bridge.

Gary Giroux from Cardinal Engineering discussed Leonard Bridge, which is in bad condition and has been closed to traffic for some time. They need to get the new structure in and the 90 percent drawings are to be submitted to the Town for review. He said they need a permit to do the work at the spillway and dam and their plan will minimize disturbances. He said they will not be taking any wetland or waterways away. They will need the permit for a temporary use area for construction and to restore upstream masonry to the face of the dam and to put in the new structure.

Gary Giroux also noted that they have a separate agreement to replace the outlet pipe and gate structure at the dam, which TTM Technologies owns. Gary said they will be slightly increasing the water capacity at the spillway. They are getting permits from DEEP and the Army Corps of Engineers. They hope to start the work next April and finish it by the end of next year.

There were no further questions or comments. David Mordasky made a motion, seconded by Kurt Mordasky to approve the Wetlands application by the Town of Stafford for the Leonard Road bridge replacement. All were in favor. Motion carried.

On a separate note, Kurt Mordasky asked about the status of the plantings at Tractor Supply. John Wilson reported that re-plantings have been done and the silt fencing has been removed.

9. Adjournment.

Hickory Lake made a motion to adjourn, seconded by David Mordasky. All were in favor. Motion carried. The October 21, 2020 Special meeting of the Stafford Inland Wetlands Commission was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Annie Gentile
Recording Secretary