

Town of Andover
INLAND WETLANDS & WATERCOURSES COMMISSION
Tuesday, January 26th, 2021 - 7:00 P.M.
Virtual Meeting via Zoom Website Platform

SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

Members present: Chair Meghan Lally, Vice Chair George Elliott, Jim Hallisey, William Munroe

Member absent: Ed Smith, Jed Larson

Others present: Joseph Wagner – Wetland Agent, Mindy Gosselin – Board Clerk, George Correia, Jim Dutton, Erik Loteczka, Cathy and Kevin Shea, Ronald and Joan Churney, Joseph Theroux, Andrew Bushnell

1. CALL TO ORDER: Chair M. Lally called the special meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.
2. ROLL CALL/SEATING OF ALTERNATES: M. Lally seated W. Munroe for E. Smith.
3. ADDITIONS/CHANGES IN ORDER TO AGENDA: None.
4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
 - a. January 12, 2021 Regular Meeting Minutes

Agenda Item 6a., M. Lally stated that the commission is discussing a permit modification without having a ~~permanent~~ **permitted** modification application submitted and the corresponding payment to the town.

G. Elliott MOVED to approve the January 12, 2021 Regular Meeting Minutes as amended. J. Hallisey SECONDED. By roll call vote, MOTION CARRIED 4:0:0.

5. PUBLIC COMMENT: No one wished to speak.
6. OLD BUSINESS- PERMIT APPLICATIONS
 - a. **IWWC 20-34:** Joseph Theroux (Agent) on behalf of Ronald and Joan Churney (Property Owners), **110 Cone Rd** (Andover, CT), Permit application for temporary wetlands crossings for a timber harvest.

Ronald and Joan Churney (the applicants) and Joseph Theroux (the applicant's agent) were present.

Agent Wagner walked the site on January 21st with Hank Gruner and Joseph Theroux. J. Theroux provided Agent Wagner with detail of the anti-tracking apron. Agent Wagner also took site photos of the proposed wetland crossings.

H. Gruner submitted a site map and letter regarding potential vernal pools that he identified on the site.

J. Theroux explained that he and H. Gruner concurred that there could be potential vernal pools, however, at this time of year they are hard to identify. An inspection should be done in March. J. Theroux stated that the activity will not affect the potential pools or their immediate habitats. There will be minimal impacts of ground disturbance, little to no rutting – if there is rutting, the logger will back blade them to avoid puddles or decoy pools. All of the proposed harvest activity is in the URA.

H. Gruner was concerned about the time frame of the activities. J. Theroux assured him that the job would ideally happen when the ground is frozen and not when the amphibians are active.

M. Lally stated that H. Gruner suggested a 100 ft. buffer around the potential vernal pools. Theroux stated that would be satisfied. There are some trees adjacent to the wetlands. There will still be plenty of overhead cover.

M. Lally asked if there are plans to install erosion control fencing. J. Theroux said no, dropping trees, cutting brush, and dragging trees, will ruin the silt fence. The best thing to do is cut the trees, restore the land and get out as quickly as possible. It is a very rocky site.

J. Theroux explained the anti-tracking detail. It would be approximately 30'x50' and made of 2-inch crushed stone. This landing is proposed to avoid a third wetland crossing.

G. Elliott MOVED to approve application **IWWC 20-34** as currently submitted and revised with standard conditions for a 2-year permit duration. J. Hallisey SECONDED. By roll call vote, MOTION CARRIED 3:0:1 (J. Hallisey did not vote due to technical difficulties).

- b. **IWWC 20-35:** Kevin and Catherine Shea, **436 Lake Rd** (Andover, CT), Permit application to construct an approx. 2,200 sq ft house within the 200' Andover Lake Upland Review Area.

Kevin and Catherine Shea (the applicants) and J. Dutton (the project engineer) were present.

M. Lally stated that B. Handfield reviewed the previously submitted plans and submitted a review with recommendations dated 1.25.21. Agent Wagner stated that J. Dutton submitted a revised plan based on B. Handfield's review.

J. Dutton explained the revised plans that addressed B. Handfield's comments. The garage was moved to comply with zoning regulations and sediment and erosion control measures were modified. J. Dutton explained that the trees on site will be cut, chipped and then used as erosion and sedimentation measures. A woodchip berm is proposed with a sediment barrier at the end of the ledge outcropping. However, the sediment barrier may be hard to install because of the ledge.

J. Dutton continued to explain the revised plans. For storm water, it is proposed that some of the roof drains will connect to a drainage system and discharged. This water will then meander to a swale down the driveway, the driveway has also changed slope. Approximately half of the roof runoff will go into the water quality swale. The rest would be directed to the ledge outcrop, then it would flow through the woods before reaching the lake.

There is an embankment that holds up the road and helps facilitate the electric utility and the septic line.

M. Lally asked about the zoning adjustments. Did it result in an increased amount of activity in the URA? J. Dutton stated that it did not expand the originally proposed clearing limits.

G. Elliott MOVED to approve application **IWWC 20-35** with standard permit conditions for a duration of 5 years. J. Hallisey SECONDED. By roll call vote, MOTION CARRIED 4:0:0.

- c. **IWWC 20-36:** Eric Loteczka and George Correia, **26 Old Farms Rd** (Andover, CT), Permit application to construct a wetland crossing for a proposed driveway and new house construction.

Erik Loteczka, George Correia, and Andrew Bushnell were present.

M. Lally recused herself from the discussions.

Agent Wagner stated that since the last meeting the Commission has received a review from Ecologist George Logan (REMA Ecological Services), he addressed H. Gruner's comments. A review from engineer B. Handfield was also submitted with concerns on the application.

Erik Loteczka explained George Logan's review memo dated 1.22.21 and H. Gruner's concerns dated 1.12.21 regarding the wood turtle and hydrodynamics. Both E. Loteczka and G. Logan visited the site together.

G. Logan concluded in his memo, "In my professional opinion, the proposed wetland and watercourse crossing will not have an adverse, long-term effect on the downgradient wetlands and watercourses, or the wildlife that utilize these habitats, including, potentially, the wood turtle... The crossing design is reasonable and takes into account the hydraulic characteristics of the two intermittent streams. This single driveway will also not impede the passage of wildlife associated with the wetland/watercourse corridor."

J. Hallisey asked about the extent of work outside the property regarding the installment of utilities. A. Bushnell explained that the power will have to continue past the property line. G. Correia has an infield meeting with CL&P on Thursday and will find out more about offsite disturbance at that time. He explained that there is an existing easement in place and another one will also have to be created.

There was a review provided by B. Handfield dated 1.25.21, which identified technical concerns. A. Bushnell addressed B. Handfield's concerns and stated that a report addressing comment one will be provided. A. Bushnell also addressed the elements in comment two and stated that he will talk to environmental consultant G. Logan about the wildlife concerns. In regards to the Army Corps of Engineers, A. Bushnell will look into this further.

W. Munroe asked if the driveway will be raised. A. Bushnell stated that it will be built up 6 ft. at the highest point.

J. Hallisey stated that the driveway on the plan did not show the limits of pavement. A. Bushnell stated that the proposed driveway is gravel – there are slopes of 10% or less.

E. Loteczka asked if the comment regarding the Army Corps of Engineers self-verification permit was more of a requirement than a recommendation. He asked this due to the potential of significant expenses. M. Lally stated that it's up to the applicant to figure that out. It may have been brought up in the review because this

application gets reviewed by various permitting parties, historically IWWC has not looked into whether an application needs to go for an Army Corps permit.

This application was continued to the next meeting.

7. AGENT REPORT: Nothing to report.
8. OTHER BUSINESS: None.
9. NEXT REGULAR MEETING: Monday, February 1, 2021 @ 7:00 p.m.
10. ADJOURNMENT

G. Elliott MOVED to adjourn the regular meeting at 8:02 p.m. J. Hallisey SECONDED. By roll call vote, MOTION CARRIED 4:0:0.

Respectfully submitted by Mindy Gosselin,

Mindy Gosselin

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