



TOWN OF ELLINGTON

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**INLAND WETLANDS AGENCY
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, MARCH 13, 2017, 7:00 PM
TOWN HALL ANNEX, 57 MAIN STREET, ELLINGTON, CT**

PRESENT: Chairman Ken Braga, Vice Chairman Ron Brown, Steve Hoffman, Jean Burns and Hocine Baouche, Mary Beth O'Neill, Art Aube and Alternate Ben Lorenzet

ABSENT: NONE

STAFF

PRESENT: John Colonese, Assistant Town Planner/Wetlands Enforcement Officer and Barbra Galovich, Recording Clerk

I. CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Braga called the March 13, 2017, regular meeting of the Ellington Inland Wetlands Agency to order at 7:00 PM in the Town Hall Annex, 57 Main Street, Ellington, CT.

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS (ON NON AGENDA ITEMS): NONE

III. PUBLIC HEARINGS (READING OF LEGAL NOTICE): NONE

IV. NEW BUSINESS:

1. IW201702 – Robert Deptula, owner/applicant, request for notification for non-regulated uses and permitted uses as of right to implement a Forest Management Plan and Conservation Plan within a Conservation Easement at 18 Angel Trace, APN 109-009-0008.

Mr. Bob Deptula of 18 Angel Trace, Ellington, CT and Mr. Matthew Davidson of Davidson Environmental, 1206 Durham Road, Guilford, CT were present to represent the application. Mr. Deptula stated that previous to building his home, a portion of the 13 acres of land was a cornfield. He explained that he would like to create a two acre patch cut of the land for wildlife habitats and proposed around three acres of forest thinning. He noted the main concern is the log landing and protection of the wetlands on the site.

Mr. Davidson presented a new plan showing minimal impact near the wetlands and within the conservation easement. He stated that Mr. Deptula, a USDA Soil Conservationist and himself walked the site. They will bring in timber mats to reinforce an existing wetland crossing. The

trees will be marked that are proposed to be taken down to improve the wildlife habitat. Mr. Davidson showed the locations of invasive species on the site.

Commissioner Hoffman asked when the wetlands delineations were done on the site. Mr. Deptula stated the last wetlands delineation was completed in 2003 however he does not believe the delineation included the rear portion of the property. Mr. Davidson showed the harvest area and explained what equipment will be used to complete the project. The stumps will be left in place and the tops of the trees will be made into six brush piles for wildlife.

The Commission discussed this forestry project as being permitted as of right. Mr. Colonese stated he had been in contact with the NRCS about the proposed activity on the site. Mr. Deptula explained the log landing access will be on the east side of the property over the existing lawn and no activity will be near the brook, leaching field or footing drain.

Mr. Davidson stated the proposed herbicide targeting specific invasive species plants is called Rodeo, which is safer than applying Round-Up. Mr. Colonese stated he would check with the CT Water Company to see if they had any concerns regarding the use of the herbicide near a watercourse in the public water supply watershed.

Commissioner O'Neill asked about the time frame for the project. Mr. Deptula stated the invasive species control measures will begin in the fall of 2017 and the forestry will be conducted in the winter of 2017-2018. Mr. Davidson confirmed that the USDA will be evaluating the project over the next three years. Commissioners complimented Mr. Deptula on the proposed project and all the documentation presented with the application.

MOVED (O'NEILL) SECONDED (HOFFMAN) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY ACCEPT - IW201702 – Robert Deptula, owner/applicant, request for notification for non-regulated uses and permitted uses as of right to implement a Forest Management Plan and Conservation Plan within a Conservation Easement at 18 Angel Trace, APN 109-009-0008.

V. ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS:

1. Approval of the February 13, 2017 Regular Meeting Minutes.

MOVED (BROWN) SECONDED (O'NEILL) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE THE FEBRUARY 13, 2017 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES AS WRITTEN.

2. Correspondence/Discussion: None

VI. ADJOURNMENT:

MOVED (O'NEILL) SECONDED (AUBE) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO ADJOURN THE MARCH 13, 2017 REGULAR MEETING OF THE INLAND WETLANDS AGENCY AT 7:34 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbra Galovich, CZET
Recording Clerk