

SALEM INLAND WETLANDS AND CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Salem Town Hall
270 Hartford Road, Salem, CT 06420

Monday, September 14, 2015 Regular Meeting
7:00 PM

DRAFT MEETING MINUTES

1. **Call to Order.** Chairman Ed Natoli called the meeting to order at 7:11 p.m.
2. **Roll Call/Seating of Alternates.**

Members Present: Chairman Edward Natoli, Jr., Sally Snyder, Linda Wildrick and Gale Balavender. **Members Absent:** Diba Khan-Bureau, William (Eric) Belt, Roger Phillips, Frank Abetti. **Also Present:** Liz Burdick, ZEO/WEO & Kevin Lyden, First Selectman.

3. **Additions of Changes to the Agenda.** None.
4. **Approval of Minutes:** None.
5. **Public Comment.** None.
6. **New Business:**
 - A. **224, 226, 240, 248, 250, 260, 262 Norwich Road – “Teel Properties”- As of Right Determination - Timber Harvest.**

Certified Forest Practitioner, Andrew Clark of Limb-It-Less Logging, LLC of 182 Saybrook Road, Essex, CT addressed the Commission and reviewed the proposed Timber Harvest Project. He stated he is planning a storm cleanup / selection timber harvest on the Properties of the Teel Farm for early fall 2015. The design of this harvest is to remove heavily storm damaged trees caused by a severe thunderstorm/microburst earlier in the summer of 2015. Furthermore, to harvest over mature and poorly formed sawtimber trees and cull trees to create a healthy uneven aged stand and to promote early successional forest within the stand. Due to the central location of the driveway through the property (see attached harvest plan map) multiple log staging areas will be created using existing access trails to avoid wetland/stream crossings to minimize site disturbance. The estimated timeframe for this timber harvest is approximately 10 weeks with a start date ASAP. There is a sense of urgency with starting this project due to the dangerous conditions that exist on the property currently due to tree tops hanging from trees, trees blow into other trees, and the overall dangerous condition for the property owners that enjoy the forestland.

Clark stated the primary equipment that will be used on the site will be a log skidder and forwarder that carries the logs out of the woods rather than dragging the trees which minimizes ground disturbance. Due to the dangerous conditions on the site, a mechanized tree harvester will be used for the storm damaged trees and to fell trees away from wetland/watercourse areas, as well as the driveway and buildings. Hand felling will be done on the trees too large for the mechanized harvester. This mix of machines and techniques will provide the lowest impact possible to the forestland.

As previously mentioned and shown on the site map, due to the central location of the driveway the crossing of streams, wetlands, and watercourses will be completely avoided during this harvest project. Primary haul roads will utilize existing trail systems on the property. Any temporary haul roads made will be constructed to run along contours and not against them. Primary haul roads will be located a minimum of 100' outside buffer zones/filter strips to wetlands/watercourses. Any sections of trails that have significant slopes will have water bars installed upon starting the harvest and will be maintained at all times during the harvest. Upon completion of the harvest permanent water bars will be installed and all skid trails will be seeded and mulched to prevent erosion and sedimentation. If at any time during the harvest excessive rainfall occurs, the harvest will be postponed until favorable conditions prevail.

In upland areas, stumps will be cut as low as possible. Trees will be directionally felled to minimize residual stand damage. Residual slash from the harvest will be lopped to 5' and be piled when feasible to create wildlife habitat. As mentioned previously, trails will be located out of buffer zones/filter strips and water bars will be installed on slopes. Roads and landing areas will be seeded and mulched. In buffer zones/filter strips, no more than one third (1/3) of the basal area will be harvested in these areas with exception of areas that may have trees with exceptional damage. Trees will be felled away from wetlands/watercourses to minimize disturbance. No slash will be left in wetland or watercourses to impede water flow. All BMP's and erosion control measures will strictly be followed in accordance to the CT DEEP's Best Management Practices Field Guide, 2007 edition.

Sally Snyder asked if tree tops not timber quality dropped on site and Clark responded they were going to create brush piles. Snyder inquired as to undamaged trees selection and Clark responded that the microburst changed the selection of trees to be cut in that desirable trees that may have been left are damaged now and have to go, along with deformed and unhealthy trees and anything of value will be left. Snyder also inquired the type of seed that will be used and Clark stated conservation mix.

Gale Balavender asked for a description of a water bar and Clark stated it is a hump of dirt on slopes that diverts water to shed off and not pond or shed too fast or alternately, a log with dirt around it, hay bales or tree tops.

Ed Natoli confirmed 100,000 Board feet or 50 cords on timber will be removed.

Liz Burdick asked for the number of trucks in and out per day and if they would post signs and Clark responded signs would be posted and he anticipated 1 truck in and out per day.

Natoli asked for the start date and Clark responded if approved this evening, he would start by 9/30/15 at the latest and would work for about 8 weeks weather permitting.

There was no further discussion.

Upon MOTION by Sally Snyder, SECONDED by Linda Wildrick, it was voted unanimously to APPROVE the application of the Teel Family and Andrew Clark of Limb-It-Less Logging for As of Right Determination for a Timber Harvest.

7. **Public Hearing(s):** None.
8. **Old Business:** None.
9. **Wetlands Enforcement Officer's Report.** None.
10. **Correspondence.** None.
11. **Adjournment.**

Upon MOTION by Sally Snyder, SECONDED by Gale Balavender, it was voted unanimously to ADJOURN the meeting at 7:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Liz Burdick
Salem Zoning & Wetlands Enforcement Officer

APPROVED BY THE SALEM INLAND WETLANDS & WATERCOURSES COMMISSION ON _____, 2015.