

**Hampton IWWA Minutes**  
**Special Meeting – January 7, 2021**  
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Chairman Bonnekson called the Meeting to order at 7:06 p.m.

**Present for the Board:** Heather Bonnekson, Peter Witkowski, Stan Crawford, Penny Newbury, Glen Newcombe

**Not Present:** Martin Mlyniec, Muriel Miller, WEO Jay Gigliotti. It was noted that Diane Gagnon has been officially appointed by the Board of Selectmen but has not yet taken the Oath of Office.

**Staff and Others Present:** Recording Clerk Dayna Arriola, Applicants Richard Brown and Keith Christadore.

**Item 1: Audience for Citizens:** none.

**Item 2: Approval of Minutes – Special Meeting of October 16, 2021**

**Motion:** Penny Newbury, seconded by Peter Witkowski, to approve the Special Meeting Minutes of October 16, 2021. Motion carried unanimously.

**Item 3: New Business**

1. WP1120-01: Richard Brown, Applicant & Property Owner; 20 Utley Road; Proposed Activity: Timber Harvest: Salvage dead oaks and pre-emptive harvest of white ash along with stand improvement thinning; harvest access will require temporary crossings of several ASSF sites; selective harvesting of ash trees in wetlands and upland review areas; retain over-story trees for shading purposes.

Peter Witkowski read the WEO Gigliotti's report into the Minutes:

20 Utley Road- Timber Harvest  
Property Owner- Richard & Ilene Brown  
Forester- Mark Trembley

The property is located on the north and south side of Utley Road and totals 106.75 acres (47.7 acres to south and 59.05 to the North). The harvest will occur on both the north and south parcels for a total harvest area of approximately 60 acres. The trees to be harvested have been marked with blue paint. Total harvest of approximately 89,000 board feet and approximately 100 cord of firewood.

The northern harvest area occurs on the west portion of the property. The landing for this portion of the harvest shall be located in an existing field accessed from Utley Road. The skid trail travels north-south, parallel to a brook. It does not appear that any crossings of this brook shall be required.

The southern harvest area includes a skid trail which wraps around a 10.7 acre pond (located in the middle of the parcel). A landing area is proposed on the eastern portion of the property and will be accessed from Route 97. This portion of the harvest proposes a crossing of a stream utilizing a log corduroy approach.

Both Harvest areas include cutting of timber within wetland areas.

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Chairman Bonnekson explained that the Agency needed to determine whether or not the application is a permitted use as of right, as defined in Connecticut General Statute 1-1q and Appendix A of the *Inland, Wetlands and Watercourses Regulations*. Applicant Richard Brown stated that timber has been harvested twice in the last 48 years on the property and that this application is not dissimilar, though this harvest includes the southern portion of the property. To Chairman Bonnekson's question on clear-cutting in the wetlands, Mr. Brown stated the intent to preserve a canopy of trees to limit the spread of invasive plants. Chairman Bonnekson also requested a description of the wetlands and its crossing. Mr. Brown said that the area designated as a "stream" is dependent on the amount of water running at any time. There will be a corduroy crossing, which he believes will be removed after it is used, in the identified area, and the project is being supervised by the Soil Conservation Service. Mr. Brown identified the crossing on the map he supplied. In response to Chairman Bonnekson's question on the entrances and exits of the logging vehicles, Mr. Brown explained that vehicles would use Route 97 for the southern section and for the northern, Utley Road, the same route used in prior times. Chairman Bonnekson expressed the concern that the town road is protected from any damage from large vehicles. To questions posed by Stan Crawford and Peter Witkowski, Mr. Brown did not have further information on the landing area, nor whether or not the materials for the project have been prepared.

**Motion:** Penny Newbury, seconded by Glen Newcombe, to make the determination that the application, WP1120-01, is a permitted use as of right. Motion carried unanimously.

2. WP1220-01: Keith Christadore, Applicant & Property Owner; 139 Main Street; Proposed Activity: Clear trees, stumps, rocks, box-out top soil to be spread in field; fill area with gravel for a Base Pad to construct a farm barn/building for equipment and hay storage. This building is essential for storage of both hay and equipment to produce the hay.

Peter Witkowski read the WEO Gigliotti's report into the Minutes:

139 Main Street- Request for Declaratory Ruling- Agricultural Exemption

Property Owner- Keith Christadore

The property owner contacted the WEO to discuss the construction of a 60' x 160' barn. The proposed location of the barn appears to be located in close proximity to the edge of a wetland. Upon discussing the options available to the owner, he opted to pursue a ruling of an exempt activity from the IWWA, based on the fact he is an agricultural operation. The owner has indicated the proposed barn is essential to his agricultural operations. The owner's agricultural activities include haying, crops and livestock. The proposed barn would be utilized for hay and equipment storage.

In addition to the construction of the barn, the activities include land clearing & grading and deposit of crushed stone.

Chairman Bonnekson explained that the applicant is seeking a Declaratory Ruling as a permitted use as of right, as defined in Connecticut General Statutes 1-1q and Appendix A of the *Inland, Wetlands and Watercourses Regulations*. Keith Christadore, Applicant, fielded several questions from members. Chairman Bonnekson asked why he chose an area close to wetlands to construct the barn and how he planned to protect the wetlands. Mr. Christadore explained that the area for construction was limited and that he plans on grading and drainage measures to accommodate the wetlands. He also confirmed that no fuel would be stored in the barn, which is strictly for the storage of hay and haying equipment.

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At Penny Newbury's request, Mr. Christadore described the proposed pole barn as a wood frame and steel construction with a dirt floor. He also described the wetlands in question as a small brook approximately 100 feet from the proposed construction area. At Chairman Bonnekson's request, he confirmed that the property is in excess of 100 acres and is an operating farm. Stan Crawford asked if the boundaries were flagged for wetlands and if timber was cleared for the footprint of the building; Mr. Christadore replied to both questions in the affirmative. Mr. Crawford asked if there was an alternate location for the barn, or if it could be rotated for a north-south orientation rather than east-west. Mr. Christadore stated that there were no other suitable locations and that rotating the proposed barn would increase the impact on the wetlands.

**Motion:** Stan Crawford, seconded by Peter Witkowski, to make the determination that the application, WP1220-01, is a permitted use as of right. Motion carried unanimously.

**Item 4: Communications:** none.

**Item 5: Audience for Citizens:** none.

**Item 6: Adjournment**

There being no further business to come before the Agency, the meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dayna Arriola  
Recording Secretary