

Hampton IWWA Minutes
Regular Meeting – September 7, 2021
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Chairman Bonnekson called the Meeting to order at 7:10 p.m.

Present for the Board: Heather Bonnekson, Peter Witkowski, Stan Crawford, Martin Mlyniec.

Not Present: Penny Newbury, Glen Newcombe, Muriel Miller, Diane Gagnon.

Staff and Others Present: WEO Jay Gigliotti. Recording Clerk Dayna Arriola, Applicants Chris Hoyt and Elliott Hayden.

Item 1: Audience for Citizens: none.

Item 2: Approval of Minutes – Special Meeting of January 7, 2021

Motion: Stan Crawford, seconded by Peter Witkowski, to approve the Special Meeting Minutes of January 7, 2021. Motion carried unanimously.

Item 3: Election of Officers: Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary

Motion: Stan Crawford, seconded by Chairman Bonnekson, to re-elect Heather Bonnekson as Chairman, Peter Witkowski as Vice-Chairman, and Martin Mlyniec as Secretary. Motion carried unanimously.

Item 4: Establish Schedule of 2022 Meetings:

Chairman Bonnekson read the dates of the first Tuesdays of every month for 2022, none of which corresponds with a holiday.

Motion: Peter Witkowski, seconded by Stan Crawford, to schedule the 2022 regular meetings of the IWWA on the first Tuesdays of every month at 7PM. Motion carried unanimously.

Item 5: New Business

1. WP0921-01: Laura Folk and Chris Hoyt, Applicants & Property Owners; 104 North Brook Street; Proposed Activity: Access road and a re-grade for lawn maintenance.

WEO Jay Gigliotti distributed the revised application and maps. The original plan for an access road into two inaccessible areas of the property has been cancelled, leaving only the issue of re-grading a small area of the yard to level the existing slope to provide additional space for a lawn. Mr. Gigliotti explained that, though there are wetlands beyond the proposed area, and a culvert installed by the town diverts a stream on the north end of the property, wetlands will not be impacted by this activity. To Peter Witkowski's question on timing, Mr. Hoyt stated that the project is anticipated to commence in the spring of 2022. Chairman Bonnekson asked the distance of the proposed activity from the house and whether or not it impacts the septic system and/or leach field. Mr. Hoyt assured that the proposed area, which is 30 feet from the house, is near neither the septic system nor the leach field. Chairman Bonnekson reviewed with the applicant the items needed for completion of the application, and Mr. Gigliotti suggested a site walk be scheduled to inspect the area of the proposed activity.

Motion: Chairman Bonnekson, seconded by Peter Witkowski, to schedule a site walk on September 13, 2021 at 6PM at 104 North Brook Street. Motion carried unanimously.

2. WP0921-02: Elliott Hayden, Applicant & Property Owner; 103 Windy Hill Road; Proposed Activity: Cut and remove dead trees killed by gypsy moths; removal of dead trees only. Utilize existing skid roads.

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WEO Gigliotti distributed photographs of the property, explaining that notification to the Agency was warranted due to the extent of tree removal. He described the activity as the thinning of dead stands by the owner to promote healthy new growth, rather than a timber harvest, noting that the existing skid trails will be utilized in the process. Chairman Bonnekson questioned the “No Trespassing” signs placed at the public access to the unimproved portion of the road; Mr. Hayden stated that the signs he placed are on the left of the public access for the sake of safety due to the presence of hazardous trees. Chairman Bonnekson also questioned some of the Map, Block and Lot numbers listed on the Property Location section of the application, stating that the property cards in the Assessor’s Office list another owner. Mr. Hayden explained that he was relying on the information gleaned from the A-2 Survey. There was some discussion related to property boundaries; Mr. Hayden reported that attempts to communicate with the adjoining property owner have been unsuccessful. With his permission, Chairman Bonnekson stated that she would provide Mr. Hayden’s phone number to the adjoining property owner. Mr. Gigliotti will work with Mr. Hayden to revise the application in accordance with the A-2 survey.

Motion: Stan Crawford, seconded by Martin Mlyniec, to revise the application, with WEO Gigliotti’s oversight, to include the A-2 survey. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Gigliotti advised that the activity is a use as of right, that there are no wetlands crossings, and that it should be considered a “selective cut” rather than a timber harvest.

Motion: Martin Mlyniec, seconded by Peter Witkowski, to approve WP0921-02, the application of Elliott Hayden, Applicant and Property Owner, as a use as of right. Motion carried unanimously.

Item 6: No Permit Necessary: none.

Item 7: WEO Report

WEO Gigliotti reported that no inspections have occurred on Keith Christadore’s property, as the project, approved earlier this year, has not moved forward. Similarly, Stonehurst has not moved forward with their approved plans, and the timber harvest at Richard Brown’s on Utley Road has yet to begin. Mr. Gigliotti reported that the house on Pomfret Road on the lot approved last year is near completion, noting that the owners followed his directives in terms of erosion control after the Department of Transportation mandated that the owners cut into the bank on the corner of Route 97 to improve the sight lines.

Item 8: Communications: none.

Item 9: Audience for Citizens:

To Stan Crawford’s question on *The Habitat*, Mr. Gigliotti stated that the publication, during the Covid pandemic, has been temporarily suspended.

Mr. Crawford also reminded members that most of their terms expire in January. Chairman Bonnekson will send a list of members requiring re-appointment to the Board of Selectmen, suggesting that Heather Bonnekson, Peter Witkowski, Martin Mlyniec, Glen Newcombe, Stan Crawford, and Diane Gagnon be appointed as members and Muriel Miller be appointed as an alternate.

Item 10: Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Agency, the Meeting adjourned at 8:41PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dayna Arriola
Recording Secretary