

**TOWN OF WOLFEBORO
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
DREDGE & FILL MEETING
APPROVED MINUTES
October 4, 2023**

Chair Lenore Clark opened the meeting at 9:00 am at Tax Map #8-1-2

Members Present: Lenore Clark, Chair, Dan Coons, Vice-Chair, Jim Nupp, Jeff Marchand, Members.

**Harley & Stacey Heath
Pork Hill Road
Tax Map #8-1-2
Standard Dredge & Fill**

The applicant proposes four wetland crossings to construct a 1500' long driveway to access a year-round residence to be located towards the upslope area of the property (one crossing is noted as a Tier 1 stream crossing and the other crossings are ephemeral stream/wetland impacts).

The Conservation Commission conducted two site visits on Sep. 15 and Oct. 4. The latter was attended by Tom Varney, P.E., CWS, who is acting as the agent, as well as DES staff.

The Commission is sympathetic to the applicants' desire to locate the house towards the top of the property slope, which affords the best views of the mountains and waterbodies. This necessitates a long 1500' driveway crossing wetlands in four locations which does not seem to meet the Department's mandate to "avoid and minimize" wetland impacts, as the house could be located at the bottom of the hill closer to Pork Hill Road without crossing any wetlands. Given the applicant's understandable desire to have a view, impacts could be avoided and minimized by building bank-to-bank crossings (e.g. box culverts, pipe arches, etc.) instead of 18" and 24" pipe culverts which require fill and will have more square footage impacts. Alternatively, the third wetland crossing at least might be avoided by moving the driveway closer to the property line where there appeared to be upland, out of the wetland area. We acknowledge that would require lengthening the driveway.

We noted that the residence will be year-round. Given its proposed location at higher elevation compared to Pork Hill Rd., there will be significant treatment required to travel the driveway safely in the late fall-winter-early spring season. We acknowledge that one of the important functions of wetlands is to trap and retain pollutants. While this may protect Willey Brook downstream, we question the effect of sand (treated or not), salt, and/or de-icing chemicals on local wetland vegetation. Given that construction equipment is a major carrier of invasive plant material, we are concerned this may alter the local ecosystem and expedite the establishment of invasive plants imported by equipment and/or wildlife. We noted the site is currently free of invasive plant infestation though ash trees on the property have been negatively affected by the Emerald ash borer.

There being no further business before the Commission, the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,
Lee Ann Hendrickson
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