

WINTHROP PLANNING BOARD
Wednesday, February 1, 2006
7 PM
Winthrop Town Office Conference Room

Council Members Present: Chairman Eric Robbins; Board Members, Bryant Hoffman, Edward Vigneault, Stephen Robbins, Robert Ashby, Clark Phinney, Rick O'Brien and Beth Young (CEO). ***Absent:*** Andrew Flint and Jon Leonard.

Public in Attendance: Scott Martel, Kim Martel, Andy Shultz, and Dan Wells.

7:00 PM Call To Order.

Public Hearing:

Item No.

Case # 211 – Winthrop Utilities District - requests a conditional use permit for timber harvesting ***for wood harvest management*** in the Resource Protection, Route 202, (Town Map 8 Lot 69 and Town Map 9 Lot 20).

Dan Wells, Winthrop Utilities District Superintendent, presented this application to the Board. The area in question is on the north side of Route 202. He introduced Andy Schultz – who is an independent contractor and works as a forester consultant. He has worked on several projects for the Winthrop Utilities District and has harvested the area at Upper Narrows Pond. They are not requesting a variance (exception) to exceed the forty (40) percent total volume allowed for cutting. In reviewing the Harvesting Plan that was handed out, and the map that goes with it, the purpose of harvest management is to manage the property as best they can.

After discussion and review of the reasons why and how the timber harvesting is required and confirmation that in this being in the resource protection zone, this request had to come to the Planning Board even though they are not looking for a variance to exceed the regulations.

One common theme that ran through the discussion was that this is Winthrop's drinking water and why was so much timber being taken out of a very sensitive area. Several Planning Board members were concerned that a lot of cutting was occurring around a very substantial amount of water that supplies the town with their drinking water.

Mr. Wells responded that the Winthrop Utilities District tries to manage the property as best they can by thinning it at approximately 40%, which is allowed by State Law. The Code Enforcement Officer, Beth Young, commented that the Planning Board members should see one of these cuts, as they are very impressive.

Abutter, Scott Martel expressed concerns regarding the proposed cutting along his property line, the amount of cutting proposed, the wet areas, and the location of a stream. He also questioned the monies received from the timber harvest and where the monies go. Mr. Wells responded that the monies go right back into the utilities district, which they use for numerous projects.

There were no other questions from the public.

Board member, Ed Vigneault, mentioned that in the Harvesting Plan, there is a section regarding sedimentation going into the drinking water supply and there is a statement that operations should stop immediately if any sediment is entering the watershed. Mr. Vigneault suggested that the word should needs to be changed to shall.

According to Dan Wells, work will begin as soon as the weather permits. Mr. Wells stated that if the ground does not freeze up or if we do not get any snow, they will not be able to start this cutting until next year. Beth Young responded that a conditional use permit is good to start within one year. If the work is not started within that time, the Board has entertained extensions and the Utilities District needs to return for an extension.

*There being no further comments from the public or the Board Members, a motion made by Ed Vigneault and seconded by Bob Ashby, approving **Case # 211** – Winthrop Utilities District Winthrop Utilities District – request for a conditional use permit for timber harvesting **for wood harvest management** in the Resource Protection, Route 202, (Town Map 8 Lot 69 and Town Map 9 Lot 20) with Conditions #1- revise page 2 (second paragraph) of the Harvesting Plan to read operations **SHALL** stop immediately if any sediment is entering the watershed and also taking into consideration Factors 2, 6, 7 of the conditional use factors to include factor 3 as well. Vote was unanimous 7-0.*

Approval of Minutes: The vote was unanimous approving the December 7, 2005 meeting minutes. Vote was 7-0. with the following corrections:

Hauled to Monmouth not Yarmouth

And on page 2 bottom of the page... the structure will be constructed further from the water than the setback requirements.

Motion by Steve Robbins seconded by Ed Vigneault meeting adjourned at 7:28 p.m.