

December 15, 2011  
Zoning Committee Public Hearing  
Conditional Use Permit  
George and Vicki Shopper

This public hearing was called to order at 1:00 p.m. by Zoning Committee Member Dan Shanahan, standing in for Chairman Bob Schneider, who is not present. This hearing has been posted and published as is required by Wis. Stats and LdF Zoning Ordinance 93-4.

Introductions were made. Zoning Committee members present were Dan Shanahan, Standing in for Chairman Bob Schneider, Janet Konopacki and Colette Welch. Also representing the Town were Sue Ackland, Town Zoning Administrator and Teri Shaw, Zoning Committee Secretary.

Also present is George Schopper the property owner.

On today's agenda is the request from the Schopper's for cutting trees that may be excessive or objectionable to neighbors.

Mr. Schopper has turned in 7 green cards.

The committee has viewed the property and asked Mr. Schopper what his plans were.

Mr. Schopper: Three to four years ago we decided to have a hobby farm. We brought in a logger, Don Gustafson, to clean up the land. At this time a select cut was also done on the 72 acres of property. Last year we noticed that some of the trees were encroaching on other healthy young trees and that there was a natural die back of certain trees. It is a mess. We contacted the DNR in September of 2011. We talked to Jake Bovack. In October of 2011, Jake Bovack, Don Gustafsen, logger, along with another DNR individual, Kenny, a tree cutter and myself, walked the property to inspect and discuss what needed to be done to maintain a healthy forest. After the inspection, Jake Bovack supplied a written letter outlining what needed to be done in the best interest of this section of woodlands.

Mr. Schopper went on to explain that he talked to concerned neighbors about the proposed project and their concerns about cutting trees along the road.

Note: on the previous select cut, none of the trees along the road were harvested. The only trees taken down along the road have been done by the Town of Lac du Flambeau.

Mr. Schopper stated that he still intends to leave that barrier of trees along the road side if the permit were granted. He just wants to clean up the area for the health of the remaining trees. That he discussed this with his neighbors. Once this second select cut was finished there are no more plans for future tree harvesting to be done. The neighbors also received a copy of the letter Mr. Schopper received from Jake Bovack, DNR along with their green cards.

Discussion took place about the location of the neighboring properties in relation to the tree cutting to be done.

Discussion took place regarding the types and sizes of the trees to be harvested in the proposed select cut, the definition of basil cut and the amount of acres involved. Mr. Schopper stated that there will be approximately 15 to 20 acres of the 52 total acres affected.

Sue Ackland stated that this was not a MFL cut. That this area predominately consists of popple and jack pines. All with a limited, short, life span. That removing the old, dead and dying growth, would give the younger, healthy trees a chance to thrive. That this area did need to be cleaned and thinned out.

Dan Shanahan then went on to read the letter from Betsy Behnke, neighbor of Mr. Schopper, dated November 16, 2011 for the record.

Sue Ackland read the e-mail she received, from John Petterle, another neighbor of Mr. Schopper, dated December 15, 2011 for the record.

Discussion took place about the contents of each letter. Note that Mr. Schopper spoke to both of these neighbors previously and is more than willing to leave a no cut buffer of trees along the road and the North lot line.

Discussion and a determination was made by the Zoning Committee that a fifty foot no cut tree buffer was adequate.

Dan Shanahan, standing in for Chairman Bob Schneider, asked if there was any more discussion or questions from the board.

Hearing none: May I have a motion?

Janet Konopacki: I make a motion to approve the CUP as presented with the following condition. That a select cut be made per the DNR advice and that a no cut buffer of trees be left, fifty foot from the center of the road and along the North lot line.

Colette Welch: I second the motion.

Dan Shanahan: May I have a vote?

Janet: Accept.

Colette: Accept.

Dan: Accept.

All in favor.

Passed.

The findings of fact will be completed.

Meeting adjourned at 1:26pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Teri Shaw  
Secretary Zoning Committee

THERE IS A TAPE RECORDING OF THIS PUBLIC HEARING ON FILE AT THE  
TOWN OF LAC DU FLAMBEAU OFFICES.