

**Town of Brasher Planning Board
Public Hearing & Meeting Minutes
6:30 pm March 15, 2023**

1. Public hearing and special meeting for a Special Use Permit for a sawmill operation at 600 CR 53 was called to order at 6:31 pm by chairperson, Julia Rose, with Ron Miller, Jamie Fedonick and Wes Lincoln present. Also in attendance were Brasher residents: Michelle First, Nathan Winkler, John Tubbs, Christina McCarthy, John Miller, and Mr. Miller's brother-in-law.
2. Ms. Rose noted she is a member of the St. Lawrence County Planning Board and stated a conflict of interest and abstained from discussion and voting on this Special Use Permit when deliberated at the County Planning Board meeting.
3. Public Comments:
 - Ms. First, of 615 CR 53, submitted a letter to be a part of the record (Attachment A). She communicated excessive noise and fumes from the business site impacts the enjoyment of their property. She suggested Mr. Miller runs his business 15-18 hours a day. She asked the business be located to another part of Mr. Millers parcel away from their property line.
 - Mr. J. Miller indicated he may work 10-12 hours a day but not more than that. He noted his property has very wet areas that limit where he could locate the sawmill.
 - Mr. Tubbs, of 566 CR 53, read and submitted a letter to be part of the record (Attachment B)
 - Ms. McCarthy communicated concern for limiting Mr. Miller's ability to make a livelihood and by issuing heavy hand with emissions on private property if the same isn't applied on public lands with recreational vehicles and normal road traffic.
4. Mr. Lincoln presented his findings as such:
 - A sawmill is a permitted use with a special use permit in the RD
 - Mr. Miller exceeds the setback requirements for property within the RD
 - Mr. Miller installed a taller stack but it doesn't clear the roofline
 - Noise levels were measured to be 90-95 dBs at the sawmill and 50-60 dBs while idling at the property line with 615 CR 53 but noted the wind was out of the west at the time. OSHA's standards state ear protection should be worn at 90 dB and higher for an 8 hour day
 - Mr. Miller intends to enclose the sawmill with siding and insulation which should attenuate noise
 - Read the decision and condition put forth by the County Planning Board (Attached)
5. Planning member clarification questions:
 - Mr. R. Miller asked Mr. Miller if the stack could be modified or lengthened to clear the roofline. Mr. J. Miller said he could go higher but didn't think an elbow would help or be necessary.
 - Mr. R. Miller asked if the muffler that has been installed is large enough. Mr. J. Miller and Mr. Lincoln responded it was quite large.
 - Mr. R. Miller asked if Mr. J. Miller intended to enclose the diesel motor as well as the sawmill building. Mr. J. Miller responded in the affirmative.
 - Ms. Rose asked what the frequency of trucks (tractor trailers or trucks with trailers) is expected to be. Mr. J. Miller suggested 6-8 times a month. Ms. Rose noted her concern for the safety of traffic along the 55 mph CR 53 near a curve.
6. ***Jamie Fedonick moved the special use permit submitted by John D. Miller of 600 CR 53 for a sawmill operation be approved with conditions: (1) securing a driveway permit from the County Highway Department; (2) enclosing the west and north elevations of the sawmill building with solid, insulated walls; (3) install a stack that clears the roofline of the barn; (4) decibel readings at the tree line of 615 CR 53 are not to exceed 90 dBs at any time during operation; and (5) planting no less than 100' of a buffer screen of evergreen trees parallel to the residence at 615 CR 53 along the tree line. Ron Miller seconded. Approved.***
7. ***Ms. Fedonick moved the meeting adjourn at 7:30 pm. Mr. R. Miller seconded. Carried***