

**TOWN OF SOMERS
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
P.O. BOX 308
SOMERS, CONNECTICUT 06071**

**CONSERVATION MINUTES
SPECIAL MEETING
Tuesday, March 7, 2006
7:00 p.m. Town Hall**

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Joan Formeister called the regular meeting to order at 7:09 p.m. Members Joan Formeister, Dan Fraro (arriving at 8:40 p.m.), Lise Wood, Karl Walton and Todd Whitford were present and constituted a quorum. Wetlands Agent David Askew and Eric Bedan were also present.

A motion was made by Karl Walton, seconded by Lise Wood and unanimously voted to take Item g. of New Business out of order.

II. NEW BUSINESS

g. Wetlands Application #537, Sewer Expansion within Upland Review Area, 33 Quality Avenue, Town of Somers

Steve Jacobs and Mike Mocko presented the sedimentation and erosion control plan proposing work on the Somers sewer treatment facility. A soil scientist has recently flagged the wetlands. The septic tanks will be reconstructed and some regrading work is necessary within the upland review area. A silt fence is to be installed, protecting the area during construction. The closest grading point is approximately 50 feet from the wetlands.

Dave Askew has no issues with the project. He has checked the wetland delineation and it looks fine. No wetland disturbance is expected.

a. Wetlands Application #531, 2-Lot Subdivision in Upland Review Area, 93 Field Road, Percoski

The Commission reviewed the plan. The property is situated on Field Road adjacent to Lloyd's Power Equipment and includes an existing house with a detached garage. The wetland is approximately 200 feet from any proposed activity and there will be no need for silt fencing. It is

a very flat area which has already been cleared. There are no issues with the application.

b. Wetlands Application #532, Dredging Intermittent Watercourse & Dam Repair, 92 Scully Road, Chatis

Bruce Wood spoke for the applicant regarding an existing pond with an intermittent stream on upper Scully Road. The pond suffered damage resulting from the October flooding and the pond was dredged without a permit. The stream is filled with sediment and flow is being diverted into an adjacent pasture. Mr. Wood is applying to clear and excavate a new channel and spread pond and stream spoils in the upland.

David Askew has checked the site and has marked the wetlands. He recommended the use of an erosion control blanket after excavation to stabilize the stream. The netting should hold seed along the sides. He briefly discussed the dewatering process and had no other issues or concerns with the application.

c. Wetlands Application #533, Bridge Crossing Stream, 328 Stafford Road, Czerwinski

A bridge on Richard Czerwinski's property, together with approximately 500 feet of town road, were damaged in October's flooding. The bridge was washed out and he is seeking to repair it as shown on the plan he presented.

Mr. Askew explained that a section of the repair work is to be done by the federal government. The new bridge is designed to withstand a 25-year storm and the engineering is sound. He has no issues of concern.

d. Wetlands Application #534, 1-Lot Subdivision with Stream Crossing, 183 Mountain Road, DeWitt

The property is situated 700 feet west of Eaglebrook Drive on the north side of Mountain Road and contains approximately 4.5 acres that slope downward from Mountain Road to Gillette Brook. T.J. Barresi from Ed Lally and Associates presented plans for a single-family home served by private well and septic system. Steve Jacobs has provided a letter granting approval of the septic system.

The wetlands have been flagged and the proposed driveway would include a wetland crossing with a 12-inch culvert. Fill will be used to build the driveway up to grade and plantings will be used to reinforce the area. A list of plantings is included with the plan.

Alternate locations for the driveway were considered, but the necessary easements are not available under terms that the applicant is agreeable to. An easement is already in place for the point of crossing proposed. In planning the driveway path, which follows the direction of an existing farm road, they have worked to keep the proposed activity outside the regulated area. A silt fence will be installed for added protection and the area is relatively flat.

Mr. Askew requested that the culvert and methods of addressing seepage issues be shown on the plans and noted that he would prefer a different driveway location if possible.

e. Wetlands Application #535, Inground Pool in Upland Review Area, 56 Brittany Lane, Witwer

The Commission reviewed the plans. Dave Askew noted that the wetland associated with the application basically appears on paper only. Because of the existing underground drains for the road, within 10 years there may no longer be a wetland associated with the property.

The applicant proposes installing an underground pool approximately 25 feet from the wetlands and will not be doing any clearing. They will be using the excavated materials on site. Mr. Askew has no issues with the application.

f. Wetlands Application #536, New House with Intermittent Stream & Wetlands Crossing, 167 Root Road, Gallant

Brian Gallant and Mike Mocko presented the plans which include installing a 1,700-foot driveway crossing the wetland. A single-family home is to be constructed in the upland area. The parcel consists of almost 20 acres, with a vernal pool, and the plan is to construct a driveway that follows a logging trail last used about 6 years ago. Mr. Mocko noted that a wetland crossing of an intermittent stream at the point where the driveway traverses the site is unavoidable. Several 6-inch culvert crossings will be situated at various low points along the driveway.

Mr. Mocko said that alternate locations for the home were considered but a large ledge area and septic system test results indicate an inability to support construction at other sites on the parcel.

Mr. Askew stated that this is a large, isolated parcel with a very nice, centrally-located wetland and a significant wildlife habitat. Due to the large buildable acreage not associated with wetlands, he believes the applicant should demonstrate all of the alternatives for house location. The proposed crossing, due to the intrinsic value of the wetlands, is going to have an unavoidable impact.

The road will need to be adequately and permanently crowned and plantings should be made

along the driveway to filter any runoff. Mr. Mocko added that good, stone-rich gravel will be used for the surface. All re-vegetation and silt fence notes will be included on the plans.

h. Discussion: VanWingerden Violation at 164 Hampden Road

Mr. Askew presented photos of the area referred to in his February 9, 2006 letter to Mr. Van Wingerden. The letter described a violation regarding a stream that flows from the property through the forest depositing sediment throughout the area and into the pond on Mr. Beley's Hampden Road property. Mr. Mocko and Leonard VanWingerden explained the plans to reduce the significant sediment discharge on the south side of the property, downstream from the pond. Mr. Mocko explained that when it rains, there is a runoff of dirty water associated with the road.

To resolve the situation they have constructed a stone berm along the pond area covered by a non-woven fabric to sandwich and stop the flow. A silt fence has also been installed and environmentally safe polymer crystals will be seeded on the bank which will attach to any escaping soil. At the outlet of the pond is a 12-foot channel in which they are placing a floc log to reduce any turbidity. The channel will be lined with 3 layers of jute mesh as well which is designed to improve the water leaving the site. These materials will have no biological impact to the water and are a safety net.

Mr. Mocko submitted his monthly report showing the work completed, which is in addition to the original erosion control. The road has been scraped of any debris.

Mr. Askew noted the additional violation of fill placed in approximately 60 additional feet of the wetland. This exceeds the amount of wetland filling approved by the Commission on December 7, 2005. Mr. VanWingerden stated that the area will be cleaned out and he would like to install a retention basin to treat stormwater. Mr. Askew would like to see the wetland boundary returned to its original location and water quality basins installed. Also no other wetland filling should be approved in the area. A timetable for the fill removal and area restoration should be submitted at the next meeting.

Mr. VanWingerden would also like to submit a new application to remove debris from Thrasher Brook and the associated floodplain. He would like to do the work at the same time that Mr. Roulier's culvert across Stafford Road is completed.

III. DISCUSSION: PLAN OF CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT

The next meeting is scheduled for March 27, 2006 at 7:00 p.m.

IV. STAFF/COMMISSIONER REPORTS

David Askew presented the Wetland Agent's Report and introduced Eric Bedan who is currently working full time at the Conservation District. He has a Master's Degree in Natural Resources with a concentration in Storm Water Management.

After brief discussion, a motion was made by Karl Walton, seconded by Lise Wood and unanimously voted to approve Mr. Askew's report as presented.

V. CORRESPONDENCE AND BILLS

- Recent issues of The Habitat, Water Watch and CFL News were distributed. Also Mr. Askew has the 2006 Municipal Inland Wetland Commission Training Program from the DEP on DVD and the Commission has received notice of the actual program with one free voucher. Anyone interested in attending should contact David Askew.

Three bills were presented from the Journal Inquirer for the following amounts: \$62.96, \$39.95 and \$55.09. A \$61.00 bill has come in from Ellington Printery for stationery. There is a bill from \$5,125.00 from the Conservation District.

A motion was made by Lise Wood, seconded by Karl Walton and unanimously voted to pay the bills as presented.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Lise Wood, seconded by Karl Walton and unanimously voted to adjourn the March 7, 2006 Conservation meeting at 9:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lise Wood, Secretary
Secretary

Robin Timmons, Recording

MINUTES ARE NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL APPROVAL AT A SUBSEQUENT MEETING.