

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

**CONSERVATION MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
Wednesday, May 3, 2006
7:00 p.m. Town Hall**

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Joan Formeister called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. Members Candace Aleks, Henry Broer, Joan Formeister, Dan Fraro, Karl Walton, Todd Whitford, Lise Wood and Alternate Member Daniel Fraro were present and constituted a quorum. Wetlands Officer David Askew was also present.

II. OLD BUSINESS

a. Other – There was no other Old Business.

III. NEW BUSINESS

a. Wetlands Application #542, New House in Upland Review Area, 126 Florida Road, Leno

Ric Leno presented an application for a house in the upland review area for a lot on Florida Road. The lot is approximately .92 acres and is a lot of record. The proposed house is between 1,290 and 1,390 square feet. He offered that if necessary he would consider putting a note on the deed to protect wetlands from future alterations.

Mr. Askew explained that he has not yet walked the site, but is familiar with the area. The lot is very tight and the wetland is within 25 feet of proposed activity. The wetland contains a stream and a number of vernal pools. Based on recent inspections of the adjacent lot, all of the pools are located on the opposite side of the stream. He will inspect the site by the next meeting. Clearing limits must be shown on the plan.

Discussion followed about deed restrictions and future activities that could alter the wetland. It was the consensus of the Commission that such restrictions are difficult to enforce and may lead to conflicts between homeowners and the town.

b. Wetland Application #543, 14 Lot Subdivision with Water Quality Basin in Wetland, Hall Hill Road & McCullough Drive, Leaska

Guy Hesketh from Hesketh Associates in East Granby presented plans for a subdivision on approximately 20 acres between Hall Hill Road and McCullough Drive. He is proposing to enter off of Hall Hill Road

and McCullough Drive. There are two isolated wetlands on the site. One is less than 100 square feet and consists of a wet depression. The project soil scientist characterizes the wetland as a “vernal watercourse”, because it does not contain wetland soils. It is not a vernal pool, based on biological criteria. This wetland will be altered by construction of the stormwater basin. The other isolated wetland will receive overflow from the stormwater basin.

Mr. Askew noted that in a few recent subdivisions he has observed loss of wetland area resulting from dewatering by road underdrains. Mr. Hesketh believes that the larger of the isolated wetlands is fed more from the east side of the proposed road than from drainage areas on the other side of the road. Mr. Askew has no other significant issues at this point.

c. Wetlands Application #544, Culvert Replacement & Extension for Existing Driveway Construction, 55 Scully Road, Wendlandt

Mr. Askew presented the plans and explained to the Commissioners the approximate location of the proposed repair activity. He noted that there is extensive erosion damage from flooding. The applicant is proposing repair which will include stone rip rap as well as replacement of the culvert.

d. Wetlands Application #545, New House with Wetland Fill & Activity in Upland Review Area, 54 (aka 86) Horseshoe Lane, Granger

Mike Mocko presented grading plans for a potential home on an approximately 4-acre lot. He anticipates that up to one-acre of land will be cleared and graded. There are two wetlands on the property. One is a small depression that remains from excavation of gravel on the site. The wetland is less than 250 square feet and does not provide vernal pool habitat based on two recent inspections by Mr. Askew. This wetland will be filled for future house construction, although a site plan has not been completed.

There is also an existing pond with potential vernal pool activity. It also serves as a stormwater basin. Mr. Askew noted the importance of protecting any potential vernal pool activity.

e. Modification of Wetlands Application #524: Grading in Upland Review Area, 164 Hampden Road, Grower Direct

At this time Lise Wood, Dan Fraro, Daniel Fraro and Henry Broer recused themselves from the meeting.

Mike Mocko and Leonard Van Wingerden presented plans for the application. Mr. Mocko explained that he continues to monitor the site. He noted that currently the goal is to continue stabilizing the area. The existing pond still functions as a sediment basin.

The proposal is to use an existing filled area to construct a stormwater quality basin to treat water from a 24-inch pipe. The pipe carries flow from under-drains and the greenhouses and has been observed to carry potting soil and permiculite. The fill is within the wetland on the east side of the new growing house and was not part of the permitted activity associated with the last permit granted in December 2005. Discussion continued regarding continued violations at the site resulting from unauthorized filling of

wetlands.

Brief discussion followed regarding delineation of the wetland with concrete monuments and the time limits involved. Delineation of the wetland boundary is a condition of approval granted in December 2005. Mr. Mocko requested that he be present at any tour of the site by Commissioners.

Lise Wood, Dan Fraro, Daniel Fraro and Henry Broer returned to the meeting at this time and a brief discussion followed regarding a possible tour of the site.

f. Other - No other New Business was presented.

IV. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION - There was none

V. DISCUSSION: PLAN OF CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT

There was no discussion on this item.

VI. STAFF/COMMISSIONER REPORTS

Mr. Askew presented his written Wetlands Agent report at this time.

Candace Aleks asked about clearing activities on Root and Stafford Road. Mr. Askew explained that the clearing is recent and there are no wetlands involved. Erosion control may be necessary.

A motion was made by Lise Wood, seconded by Candace Aleks and unanimously voted to accept the Wetland Agents Report as written.

VII. CORRESPONDENCE AND BILLS - None were presented.

VIII. MINUTES APPROVAL

A motion was made by Karl Walton, seconded by Todd Whitford and unanimously voted to approve the Conservation minutes of the February 1, 2006 and March 7, 2006 Commission Meetings as written.

A motion was made by Karl Walton, seconded by Henry Broer and unanimously voted to approve the Conservation minutes of the April 5, 2006 and April 19, 2006 Commission meetings as written.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

A reminder was given by Joan Formeister that she will not be available to attend the next regularly scheduled meeting. A motion was made by Lise Wood, seconded by Dan Fraro and unanimously voted to adjourn the May 3, 2006 Conservation Commission meeting at 9:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lise Wood, Secretary

Robin Timmons, Recording Secretary

MINUTES ARE NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL APPROVAL AT A SUBSEQUENT MEETING.