

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

**CONSERVATION MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
Wednesday, September 6, 2006
Town Hall, 7:00 p.m.**

I. CALL TO ORDER

Vice Chairman Karl Walton called the Meeting to order at 7:04pm. Members Henry Broer, Dan Fraro, Lise Woods, Candy Aleks, Todd Whitford and Alternate Member Daniel Fraro (seated for Joan Formeister) were present and constituted a quorum. David Askew, Wetlands Agent, and Erik Bedan, Wetland Agent-In-Training, were also present.

II. OLD BUSINESS

a. DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE DECISION: WETLANDS APPLICATION #557, PROPOSED WETLAND FILLING FOR LAWN, 95 FRANKLIN WOODS ROAD, SOCHA

Mr. Askew described the applicant's proposal to fill a section of wetlands to create lawn and explained his concerns regarding increased drainage resulting from the filling. Bob Socha Jr. joined the discussion and further explained that the project will consist of filling one-tenth acre of wetlands. He also described past efforts to control drainage from the site including construction of a ditch along the driveway and a catch basin at the base of the driveway. Mr. Walton described concerns that the fill will be more significant in depth than shown on the plans. Mr. Fraro agreed with Mr. Askew's prior recommendation to create a swale to divert water towards the driveway culvert. Mr. Socha Jr. explained that previously installing a drainage system on the property has resulted in less water flowing into the wetlands. Mr. Walton suggested that a qualified engineer review drainage issues on the property and work with the Socha's to develop a plan. Mr. Walton explained that an extension of the application would be necessary to allow further review from an engineer.

A motion was made by Lise Woods, seconded by Dan Fraro and unanimously voted to table the application to the next meeting provided the applicant grants an extension.

b. Other - No other Old Business was presented.

III. NEW BUSINESS

a. WETLAND APPLICATION #558; DRIVEWAY CROSSING OF WETLAND FOR NEW HOME; 99 WHITE OAK DRIVE, LOT 4A, McCULLOUGH BUILDERS

Mr. Capossela represented the applicant, Mr. McCullough, and presented plans describing a 58-acre parcel being subdivided in two lots of 42 and 16 acres. Mr. Capossela explained that the parcel was reviewed in 2004, however three factors have changed: the Zoning Board of appeals granted a variance for frontage, septic testing has been completed, and mitigation of wetlands is now proposed. Mr. Askew explained that the parcel was part of a subdivision and a permit was previously denied for this parcel in March 2004 with a similar crossing. Mr. Capossela stated the wetland disturbance would be 4200 sq. ft. in order to access the upland area for a new home. Mr. Mocko maintained that the disturbance was a minimal impact with the least amount of area for crossing wetlands on the parcel. Mr. Mocko, the applicant's consultant, explained that the proposal includes wetland replacement of 1:1 in terms of area. Discussion followed that the wetland fill was a significant activity and there was significant public interest based on the previous application. Discussion included how storage and discharge of water will be affected. Mr. Mocko explained there would be no significant change of flow because the impact area is along the fringe of the wetland. Mr. Capossela requested a motion to hold a public hearing and Mr. Askew informed the applicant that all documents must be received by the Town Hall 15 days prior to the hearing.

A motion was made by Todd Whitford, seconded by Candace Aleks and unanimously voted to hold a public hearing on October 4, 2006 at 7:00 p.m. at Town Hall for Wetland Application #558 to construct a driveway through wetlands for a new residential home at 99 White Oak Drive, Lot 4A, McCullough Builders.

The Commission made preliminary arrangements to inspect the parcel on September 20, 2006.

b. Wetland Application #559, Dredging of Pond and Stream Inlet, Streambank Stabilization, 5 and 9 Somerset Lane, Driscoll and Gibbs

Mr. Mocko presented a proposal for the applicants to improve an old pond that is being filled in by sediment. Mr. Mocko added that October 2005 storms deposited considerable amounts of sediment, leaving a shallow stream and pond. They propose to dredge the stream and pond and place the dredge spoil on Driscoll's property. The channel will be reconstructed with riprap and reseeded banks. Mr. Askew explained that the sediment was a long-term issue and Mr. Mocko agreed, suggesting that a large portion comes from the road. Mr. Askew requested that all of the information discussed be shown on the site plan before the next meeting, including the location of rip-rap, a design for the stream restoration, location of dredge spoil deposition, and erosion control plan and a dewatering/refilling plan. Mr. Askew noted that the stream supports brook trout so care must be taken to maintain downstream flow during all phases of construction. In stream work is not permitted beyond September 30 under DEP General Permit Provisions.

c. Wetlands Application #560, Relocate and Stabilize Existing Brook, 30 Deerfield Road, Stenlake

Karen Isherwood, P.E. presented the applicant's proposal to stabilize the stream bank on her property. Large stormflows have compromised the stability of the stream bank and it continues to erode towards the house. Mr. Askew previously requested that the proposed channel be reduced from 10-feet wide and that a plunge pool be eliminated and utilize riprap or equivalent material for stability. The project engineer has

redesigned the channel and all recommended changes have been shown on the plans. Mr. Askew recommended that an engineer be present as a site inspector during construction to assist the contractor. Mr. Askew also recommended a preconstruction meeting with the contractor as a condition if approved. Karen Isherwood, P.E. will incorporate the recommendations in the plans. Mr. Askew recommended the project be allowed to occur beyond the usual September 30 cut-off because active erosion is still occurring and the project should be able to be completed in a short time.

d. Wetland Application #561, Single Family Residence and Driveway within Upland Review Area, 299 Springfield Road, Anderson

Mr. Anderson presented the plans to construct a single family home that has a driveway and grading within the upland review area. Mr. Askew recommended that silt fence be used to control sediment movement towards the wetlands. Discussion from commission recognized that there were no anticipated impacts to the wetland resulting from the proposal.

e. Other - No other Old Business was presented.

IV. Audience Participation

Karen Isherwood, P.E. and Mrs. Stenlake asked about the easement for road drainage on Mrs. Stenlake's property. The drainage is flowing beyond the easement on her property and causing erosion. Mr. Whitford suggested measures that could be taken by the homeowner regarding the easement, and the Commission recommended the homeowner speak with the Town Department of Public Works.

V. Staff/Commission Report

- A motion was made by Lise Woods, seconded by Dan Fraro and unanimously voted that the agent's report be accepted.

VI. Correspondence and Bills

- A motion was made by Dan Fraro, seconded by Candace Aleks and unanimously voted to pay the bills.

VII. MINUTES APPROVAL

A motion was made by Dan Fraro, seconded by Candace Aleks and unanimously voted to approve the July 12, 2006 Conservation meeting minutes as written. The meeting minutes from August 2, 2006 were unavailable and therefore tabled.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Todd Whitford, seconded by Daniel Fraro and unanimously voted to adjourn the September 6, 2006 Conservation Commission meeting at 9:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lise Wood, Secretary
Agent

David Askew, Wetland

MINUTES ARE NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL APPROVAL AT A SUBSEQUENT MEETING.