

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

**CONSERVATION MINUTES  
REGULAR MEETING  
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 7, 2007  
TOWN HALL – 7:00 P.M.**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Joan Formeister called the regular meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Members Henry Broer, Joan Formeister, Dan Fraro and Todd Whitford and Alternate member Lise Wood (seated for Karl Walton) were present and constituted a quorum. Wetland Agent David Askew was also present.

A motion was made by Lise Wood, seconded by Todd Whitford and unanimously voted to add **Wetlands Application #571, 58 Schneider Road (Bierman Property), Town of Somers** to the agenda under **New Business, d. Other.**

A motion was made by Dan Fraro, seconded by Todd Whitford and unanimously voted to address the New Business Items prior to the Old Business Items.

**III. NEW BUSINESS**

**a. Wetlands Application #568, Demolition of House & Foundation in Upland Review Area, 27 South Road, Shady Lake LLC**

Mr. Askew reviewed the plan with the Commissioners, noting that development of the site for age-restricted housing is anticipated. At this time, the applicant is seeking to remove a small house and foundation. The house is situated next to the access way that goes into Shady Lake at 27 South Road. The structure is located approximately 15 feet away from the brook but there is enough bank between the excavation and the stream so that the bank is not likely to collapse. It is also a shallow foundation so the work can be completed in a single day. The foundation hole will be backfilled with clean fill. Mr. Askew does not have any issues with the application.

**b. Wetlands Application #569, New House in Upland Review Area, 70 Scully Road, Barnes**

The applicant, Mr. Barnes, purchased the property last year and now is seeking to re-subdivide so as to add an extra lot. The proposed house, driveway and septic are within the upland review area. No direct impacts to wetlands are proposed. Mr. Askew explained that the wetlands on the parcel where the home is to be located do not have much habitat value and serve primarily to collect surface and groundwater. Wetlands on the parcel are small isolated features and they are not vernal pools. The previously approved house on the adjacent lot is downslope from this parcel. Curtain drains were required on the adjacent lot

for construction of the septic. There is also a stream on the property farther away from the proposed development to the south. There is currently a culvert across Turnpike Road.

Mr. Askew noted that his one concern with this type of lot is that it is very tight and future proposals for typical residential improvements like shed and pools will be difficult to construct without altering wetlands. The limited lot area also increases the likelihood of violations by future homeowners. Mr. Barnes noted that he is going to put a notation on the deeds when he sells the lots restricting what will be built or placed on the lots. He will present this information at a future meeting.

**c. Wetlands Application #570, NRCS Stream Restoration, 56, 62 and 96 Gulf Road (Property of Haun, Williams & Whitney), Town of Somers**

Mr. Askew explained the project, which involves stream restoration on three properties that were damaged by flooding in October 2005. The NRCS is going to access through Whitney's property at 96 Gulf Road. They will be working within the stream through the entire course of the project area. The plan is to dewater and pipe everything around, go into the stream and install rip rap along the sides. They will also put rip rap into the center of the stream so as to re-establish the bottom of the stream and prevent it from being scoured out again.

The project is being done under the Emergency Watershed Protection Program. The Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service is doing the engineering and providing 75% of the cost of construction and the DEP will take care of the other 25%, through a reimbursement to the town. NRCS will have construction inspectors on the site the entire time that the project is being completed.

Mr. Askew noted that projects like this could be considered as a significant activity. However, Mr. Askew explained that the project has been reviewed by the state DEP and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services and improvements have been made in the project to enhance fisheries.

Temporary easements are needed from the homeowners, and Mr. Askew is in the process of negotiating with them at this time.

**d. Other – Wetlands Application #571, 58 Schneider Road (Bierman Property), Town of Somers**

This application was received yesterday, in time to put onto the agenda. Mr. Askew presented the plans, noting that this is another flood repair project. The project is just downstream from the northern most crossing of the Scantic River as it crosses Springfield Road. During the October 2005 flood there was substantial bank erosion and the new top of bank is within 20 feet of a home on Schneider Road. This project will involve a lot of rip rapping and bank protection. In addition, sediment deposits left from the flood will be removed and portions of the bank will be reshaped. This project is also being done under the Emergency Watershed Protection Program. It has received the same level of environmental review at the state and federal level.

**II. OLD BUSINESS**

**a. Review and Adopt Bylaws**

Everyone has received a copy of the Bylaws and no revisions were suggested.

**b. Other** – There was no other Old Business.

**IV. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION** – There was none.

**V. DISCUSSION: PLAN OF CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT**

There was no discussion on this item.

**VI. STAFF/COMMISSIONER REPORT**

Mr. Askew presented his report and reviewed it with the Commissioners, noting that he has spent a lot of time working on the flood projects. He has also written a letter to Mr. Jalbert about the erosion control at his subdivision on Mountain View Road. He noted that erosion controls were put in place just prior to the recent rainstorm and they appear to be holding up well at this time. Mr. Askew also took care of a violation involving an approved pond excavation on Partridge Run Drive. The problem, involving discharge of water into a stream, has been resolved.

A motion was made by Lise Wood, seconded by Dan Fraro and unanimously voted to approve the Wetland Agent's Report as written.

**VII. CORRESPONDENCE AND BILLS**

A letter was received from the State Department of Transportation notifying the Commission that a renewal for the inland wetland watercourses permit has been submitted for the project at the intersection of Route 83 and Parker Road.

A new Best Management Practices Guidebook for Forestry was received from the DEP.

Notice was received of the DEP 2007 Municipal Inland Wetland Training Session to be held on March 24, 2007.

**VIII. MINUTES APPROVAL: February 7, 2007**

The word "for" was added on Page 2 in Section VI, on the first line just prior to the word "review". A motion was made by Dan Fraro, seconded by Henry Broer and unanimously voted to approve the February 7, 2007 minutes as amended.

**IX. ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by Karl Walton, seconded by Dan Fraro and unanimously voted to adjourn the March

7, 2007 Conservation Commission meeting at 7:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Candace Aleks, Secretary

Robin Timmons, Recording Secretary

***MINUTES ARE NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL APPROVAL AT A SUBSEQUENT MEETING.***