

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

**CONSERVATION MINUTES  
REGULAR MEETING  
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 4, 2007  
TOWN HALL – 7:00 P.M.**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Joan Formeister called the regular meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. Members Candace Aleks, Henry Broer, Joan Formeister, Dan Fraro, Louis Lipton, Karl Walton, Todd Whitford and Alternate member Lise Wood were present and constituted a quorum. Wetland Agent David Askew was also present.

The Commission welcomed new member Louis Lipton.

**II. OLD BUSINESS**

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

Mr. Askew explained that the applicant proposes demolishing the small house and foundation on the South Road site. The structure is located about 10 feet away from the brook, but work will not impact the wetlands. Removal and refilling of the foundation should not take more than a day. Mr. Askew does not have any issues with the application.

A motion was made by Dan Fraro, seconded by Karl Walton and unanimously voted to approve Shady Lake LLC's Wetlands Application #568 for demolition of a house and foundation in an upland review area at 27 South Road.

**b. Discussion/Possible Decision: Wetlands Application #569, New House in Upland Review Area, 70 Scully Road, Barnes**

Mr. Askew explained that this is a resubdivision of a lot brought before the Commission about a year ago. The site includes a few small, low-value wetlands based upon the soil-type. There is a drainage issue on the remaining lot and a curtain drain will be installed without making any alterations to the wetlands. There is a 24-inch RCP across Turnpike Road that carries an intermittent watercourse. The watercourse is not connected to the wetland on the parcel.

The applicant will be placing a number of restrictions on the property as shown in a letter written by Attorney Bonnie Kumiega. A copy of the letter is being submitted along with the application.

The Town Sanitarian has verified that there are adequate soils for septic.

A motion was made by Karl Walton, seconded by Dan Fraro and unanimously voted to approve Barnes' Wetlands Application #569 for a new house in an upland review area at 70 Scully Road with the conditions that 1) a pre-construction meeting be held, 2) that boundary markers be placed along the wetland boundary, and 3) that the applicant include the restrictions as stated in the letter dated March 28, 2007, from Attorney Bonnie Kumiega.

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

Mr. Askew reviewed the plans with the Commissioners, explaining the federal stream restoration project designed to repair flood damage from October 2005. A large segment of the stream jumped out of the stream-bed and eroded a new stream bed. This resulted in the loss of a septic system and a large portion of a backyard for one of the homeowners.

The NRCS is going to restore the original streambed by installing riprap along the centerline of the channel for grade control so that the bed will not erode again. They will also line the stream banks with riprap. They will put topsoil over the riprap along the banks and install grass and shrubs to give it a natural look. It is a 75% to 25% split for the funding with the town and the town's portion is funded by the DEP.

The plans have been reviewed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife, the Army Corp of Engineers and DEP Fisheries Biologists.

A motion was made by Karl Walton, seconded by Candy Aleks, and unanimously voted to approve the Town of Somers' Wetlands Application #570 for NRCS stream restoration at 56, 62 and 96 Gulf Road (property of Haun, Williams & Whitney) with the suggestion that the fee to the Town of Somers be waived.

**d. Discussion/Possible Decision: Wetlands Application #571, NRCS Stream Restoration, 58 Schneider Road, 741 and 749 Springfield Road (Property of Mehl, Thibault, Bierman), Town of Somers**

Mr. Askew explained that this is another NRCS flood repair project from the October 2005 storm. It will involve installing fence enclosures filled with rock along the top of the bank and riprap. Work will also be done downstream along Springfield Road where sediments will be removed and the riverbed will be re-shaped. The particulars in terms of the funding will be the same as in the Gulf Road project.

A motion was made by Karl Walton, seconded by Dan Fraro and unanimously voted to approve the Town of Somers' Wetlands Application #571 for NRCS stream restoration at 58 Schneider Road, 741 and 749 Springfield Road (property of Mehl, Thibault & Bierman) with the suggestion that the fee to the Town of Somers be waived.

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**e. Other** – There was no other New Business

### **III. NEW BUSINESS**

#### **a. Wetlands Application #572, Installation of Inground Pool and Grading in Upland Review Area, 43 Hickory Hill Drive (Property of Cass), Vernon Poolman**

Walter Kaczmarcyk from, Vernon Poolman and Debbie Kass presented plans for the proposed inground pool at the bottom of the driveway. There is a small intermittent stream situated approximately 75 feet from corner of the deep end of the pool. The stream originates on another parcel at the end of a culvert. Mr. Askew noted that it looks as if the stream picks up some of the foundation drainage.

The applicant would like to do some light grading at the bottom end of the pool to clean up an area where some old trees have fallen. Silt fence will be installed while the work is being done and there will be no impact to the wetland area. Grass seed will be installed to prevent any future erosion.

Mr. Askew will be going back to verify that there are no wetlands within 100 feet of the area because when he originally visited the site there was too much frost to check.

#### **b. Wetlands Application #573, Expansion of Gravel Excavation Operation, 516 Somers Road, Charter**

Peter Charter is requesting to extend his gravel pit off of Route 83 to make the remaining 3-1/2 acre-area tillable. Sediment basins are proposed to catch and store sediment.

The Commissioners reviewed the plans, noting where the access road is in Ellington. Mr. Askew explained that the area is currently hayfield with a narrow vegetated buffer along the northernmost stream. The southernmost stream has a more substantial vegetated corridor, which will not be disturbed. The main issue is to keep the sediment out of the brook.

In the past, Mr. Askew noted there have been problems with the gravel pit operator maintaining erosion controls. However, no sediment discharges have been observed due to lack of runoff from the site. Discussion followed that it ultimately is the landowner's responsibility to be sure that the erosion controls are kept in place.

Merv Strauss has recommended a berm, but Mr. Askew noted that ponding sometimes occurs behind them. Instead, he suggested that haybales and silt fences be used so water can flow through if necessary.

#### **c. Wetlands Application #574, New House in Upland Review Area, 54 Horseshoe Lane, Granger Homes**

Mr. Askew explained that this site is at the end of Horseshoe Lane and the Partridge Run subdivision and the Commission approved a previous grading operation last year. The wetland is approximately 100 feet

away from the end of the house. There are no issues with the application and it is a flat lot with sands and gravel.

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

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

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

Karl Walton reported that CRCOG has made a recommendation regarding the potential regulation changes seeking to broaden agricultural uses. Patrice Carson will be emailing it out for review and comments.

Dan Fraro added that Tolland County Farm Bureau will present a dinner program at 5:00 p.m. on April 12, 2007, at the Tolland Agricultural Center on Route 30 in Tolland.

**VI. STAFF/COMMISSIONER REPORT**

The Commissioners reviewed the monthly Wetland Agent Report. Much of Mr. Askew's time was spent working on the flood projects. The Jalbert Subdivision Project on Mountain Road has also presented erosion control challenges.

Other projects include the Leno Battle Street Subdivision and the 8-lot subdivision on Stafford Road.

A motion was made by Karl Walton, seconded by Henry Broer and unanimously voted to approve the Wetland Agent's Report as presented.

**VII. CORRESPONDENCE AND BILLS**

A bill was received from the Journal Inquirer for \$55.09 covering the notices for our last public hearing. A motion was made by Karl Walton, seconded by Dan Fraro and unanimously approved to pay the bill.

**VIII. MINUTES APPROVAL**

A motion was made by Dan Fraro, seconded by Karl Walton and unanimously voted to approve the minutes of the March 7, 2007 meeting as written.

**IX. ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by Karl Walton, seconded by Dan Fraro and unanimously voted to adjourn the April 4, 2007 Conservation Commission meeting at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Candace Aleks, Secretary

Robin Timmons, Recording Secretary

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