

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

**CONSERVATION MINUTES  
REGULAR MEETING  
WEDNESDAY, MAY 2, 2007  
TOWN HALL – 7:00 P.M.**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Joan Formeister called the regular meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. Members Candace Aleks, Henry Broer, Joan Formeister, Dan Fraro and Karl Walton were present and constituted a quorum. Wetland Agent David Askew was also present.

**II. OLD BUSINESS**

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

David Askew reviewed plans with the Commission. He re-visited the site today because it was still frozen the last time he inspected the area. The area to be graded adjacent to the pool is a moderately well drained soil but is not wetland. Mr. Askew has no issues with the application.

A motion was made by Karl Walton, seconded by Candy Aleks and unanimously voted to approve Vernon Poolman's Wetlands Application #572 for installation of an in-ground pool and grading in an upland review area at 43 Hickory Hill Drive (Property of Cass), with the condition that silt fence be installed around the perimeter of the construction area to protect the stream.

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

Mr. Askew reviewed the plans for the expansion of the gravel operation within an existing farm field. The proposed operation is located between Abbe Brook and a tributary of Abbe Brook. Mr. Askew recommends that a line of silt fence in front of a line of hay bales be installed before excavation to protect the area.

Mrs. Formeister noted that Mr. Strauss has suggested a berm for erosion control be installed. Mr. Askew explained that hay bales and fencing allows filtration without causing ponding. He also noted that water will be directed to two sedimentation basins within the gravel mining area.

A motion was made by Karl Walton, seconded by Dan Fraro and unanimously voted to approve Charter's Wetlands Application #573 for expansion of the gravel excavation operation at 516 Somers Road, with the

provision that a silt fence and hay bale barrier be erected prior to excavation around the perimeter of the proposed excavation.

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

The Commission previously approved filling in the area and Mr. Askew explained that the applicant is now proposing a house lot. The site is at the end of the cul-de-sac in the Partridge Run Subdivision. Grading adjacent to the garage is within the upland review area. There is currently a line of silt fence along the area and no pre-construction meeting is needed. David Askew recommends that the border of the wetlands be marked along the side yard.

A motion was made by Karl Walton, seconded by Dan Fraro and unanimously voted to approve Granger Homes' Wetlands Application #574 for a new house in an upland review area at 54 Horseshoe Lane, with the provision that the existing silt barriers be maintained and that the border of the wetlands be marked along the southwest end of the property with badging deemed appropriate by David Askew.

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

**III. NEW BUSINESS**

**a. Wetlands Application #575, Drainage System in Upland Review Area, 455 Ninth District Road, Bernier**

The application was presented by John Martucci, LBM Engineering, who is working with Sandy Aeschliman. The 6-lot subdivision is proposed on a 30-acre lot situated on the southeast side of Ninth District Road. The subdivision includes a 550-foot cul de sac. There is an existing house and 2 barns on the site. Lot 5 includes a barn to be converted into a home. Another proposed lot will contain the existing house. The parcel has no wetlands. Only the proposed drainage system along Ninth District Road is located within the upland review area of an intermittent stream located on a property to the north. The lots will be served by septic systems and wells. One lot will front on Ninth District Road. CL&P has a right of way which includes 14 of the 30 acres. There are about 6 acres to be developed and the actual road pavement will consist of about 4 tenths of an acre.

Mr. Martucci explained the proposed drainage system. The site is served by a 22-foot wide paved road with curbs. A small detention pond is proposed on Ninth District Road to keep the peak runoff at or below the existing rate.

The detention pond will discharge into a new stormwater drainage system on Ninth District Road. The drainage system will extend along Ninth District Road to an existing 24-inch cross culvert. The cross culvert brings a recently excavated ditch across the street. Then it drains across the field and into an unnamed tributary of Abbe Brook.

There will be a series of catch basins installed along Ninth District Road. A hydrodynamic separator will

be installed in-line at the end of the system to treat the water quality flow for the DEP's water quality volume requirements of 80% removal of total suspended solids. The 6 or 7 basins in the new road will have 4-foot sumps to collect coarse sediments. The basins in Ninth District Road will all have 2-foot sumps. The catch basins should generally be cleared out two times a year, depending upon inflows.

No other issues were identified by the Commission.

**b. Wetlands Application #576, Senior Housing Project in Upland Review Area, 63 Battle Street, Town of Somers**

Henry Torcellini from Gardner & Peterson Associates, LLC, Harvey Edelstein and Leonard Slaga, Chairman of the Housing Authority, presented plans for the redevelopment of the existing 54 senior housing units on Battle Street. An additional 34 units will also be constructed in the future. The Housing Authority owns about 8 acres and the project will encompass about 13.2 additional acres.

The Town Sanitarian and the DEP have tested the area and found about 20 feet of sand and gravel above the water table. The ultimate plan includes adding two 34-unit buildings and a number of single duplexes or triplexes at the back of the site. With this application, they are seeking to rehab the existing units which are about 400 square feet. The units will be increased in size to about 720 square feet. The current number of units will decrease from 54 to 52.

The site is bounded on the north by Gillette Brook and is situated on a plateau containing an old cornfield. They have marked out the wetlands. The site has 2 pools of standing water between the existing housing and the cemetery. The larger of the ponds is a confirmed vernal pool. The status of the smaller one has not been confirmed – a few fairy and tadpoles were observed by the project soil scientist. The larger pond takes storm drainage from the cemetery. The other pond takes flow from the road and off site.

Mr. Askew noted that if the smaller pool is in fact a vernal pool it is probably not that productive, as he has investigated the pool during prior spring breeding seasons and has not observed any substantial activity. No egg masses have been observed. He asked that the toe of the proposed fill area be staked out so the exact location can be identified relative to the pool. The larger vernal pool appears to be moderately productive. No new activity is proposed close to the pool. The existing stormwater outlet will be reinforced with rip-rap to protect against scouring.

There are 9 monitoring levels for ground water. The general flow is toward the northwest and ultimately runs out to Gillette's Brook.

After Mr. Askew reviews the staked location of the proposed fill, he will provide additional comment to the applicant.

**c. Other** – There was no other New 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**

David Askew presented the Wetland Agent's Report. The site showing was last Tuesday for the Gulf Road and Stafford Road flood projects and work is expected to begin soon. Schneider Road hasn't had a showing yet, but all the easements have been obtained.

The project on Jalbert Road had some erosion issues due to the last rainfall and they are in the process of putting back the silt fence and cleaning up the road.

Grower Direct was inspected after the last rainfall and the sediment basins are working well and the pond look relatively clear.

A homeowner on Stillmeadow Lane is clearing behind his property along 6 or 7 acres. The area is wet, but no wetland soils have been identified. Mr. Askew has recommended that the landowner assess drainage issues before continuing.

A homeowner on Main Street is concerned about a groundwater seep near Dunkin Donuts along South Road. He also expressed concern about a downed tree within Gulf Brook. After inspecting photos provided by Mr. Askew, it was the consensus of the Commission that the tree and debris should be removed from the center of the brook, provided that roots are left in place.

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A motion was made by Dan Fraro, seconded by Karl Walton and unanimously voted to approve the Wetland Agent's Report.

**VII. CORRESPONDENCE AND BILLS**

There were no bills.

A letter dated April 18, 2007, was received and read from Attorney John Parks regarding Bernier's Wetlands Application #455 on Ninth District Road.

**VIII. MINUTES APPROVAL**

A change was made to the April 4, 2007 meeting under the Call to Order section. Louis Lipton was welcomed as a new Alternate Member, rather than as a new Member, and the minutes were corrected to reflect this.

A motion was made by Dan Fraro, seconded by Candy Aleks and unanimously voted to approve the minutes as corrected.

**IX. ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by Karl Walton, seconded by Dan Fraro and unanimously voted to adjourn the May 2, 2007 Conservation Commission meeting at 8:34 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Candace Aleks, Secretary

Robin Timmons, Recording Secretary

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