

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

**CONSERVATION MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 2007
TOWN HALL – 7:00 P.M.**

I. CALL TO ORDER

Vice Chairman Karl Walton called the regular meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. Members Henry Broer, Joan Formeister (arriving 7:15), Karl Walton, Dan Fraro, and Todd Whitford were present and constituted a quorum. Also present was Erosion Control/Wetland Enforcement Officer, David Askew.

II. OLD BUSINESS

a. OTHER – There was none.

III. NEW BUSINESS

a. Wetlands Application #580, Fill & Excavation Within Wetland, 164 Hampden Road, Grower Direct Farms

At the July 25th, 2007 meeting, there was a request from the Commission that the applicant provide additional information including site elevations and a hydraulic analysis. Dave Askew provided the Commission with a letter from Steve Jacobs outlining his review of the above-mentioned property. No revised plans have been presented to the Commission and there was no representative present at the meeting to address the Commission on this application.

A motion was made by Dan Fraro; seconded by Todd Whitford and unanimously voted to table discussion on Grower Direct Farms' application #580 for fill & excavation within a wetland at 164 Hampden Road until the next scheduled meeting.

b. Wetlands Application #581, Fill In Upland Review Area, 18 Harvest Hill Drive, Frangiamore

Roger Frangiamore addressed the Commission explaining that he was seeking to add approximately 2,000 yards of fill to 18 Harvest Hill Drive due to the back yard having a very steep slope. This would extend the yard about 10 to 15 feet and the toe-of-slope by approximately 40 feet, creating a more gradual slope in the back. Most of the additional fill is within the upland review area and is no closer than 40 feet to the wetland.

Mr. Askew's suggestion to Mr. Frangiamore was to stake the Conservation easement line and remain 40 feet from that line.

Mr. Frangiamore requested a special meeting in two weeks, but then recanted the request stating that he would keep with the regular scheduled meeting next month.

c. Wetlands Application #582, Addition In Upland Review Area, 176 Watchaug Road, Carabelli

Mr. Askew explained that the property is in close proximity to the Watchaug Road and King Road intersection. The wetland in question is slightly off the property but the proposed addition is over 500 square feet so the applicants needed to request a full permit. Mr. Askew added that no impacts to wetlands were expected to result from the proposed addition.

Ms. Carabelli requested, if possible, to meet prior to the next regular scheduled meeting next month.

Mr. Askew will confirm with Commission members their availability to attend a Special meeting in two weeks. If a Special meeting is scheduled, he will inform the applicants of the meeting date and time.

d. Wetlands Application #583, Determination Of A Permitted Use Of Right For Alterations To An Intermittent Stream For Pasture Development, 30 Hurlburt Road, Lindy Farms

Dave Palmberg, William R. Palmberg & Son LLC Surveyors, and John Belski from Lindy Farms spoke to the Commission. Back in April/ May of 2007 Lindy Farm representatives came before the Commission and spoke informally about the future objectives of the farm. Since that time all of the wetlands have been flagged, and there has been some additional land clearing. During the additional clearing, an area adjacent to Hurlburt Road, within a regulated watercourse, was stumped, graded, and seeded. Pictures were presented of the watercourse as it currently looks.

There was a Zoning application/permit pulled for a barn to be erected on the southern portion of the property, with a caretaker quarters and septic system. Some grading will occur within the upland review area. As part of that application the existing farm road will be relocated 100 feet to the south to keep it outside of the regulated area. There is an additional intermittent watercourse that the applicant wishes to "clean up" by grading the side slopes to make it safe for horses to cross. The watercourse will be graded with a 3:1 slope, and it will be seeded.

A motion was made by Henry Broer; seconded by Joan Formeister and unanimously voted to approve Lindy Farms' application #582 as a permitted use of right for alterations to an intermittent stream for pasture development at 30 Hurlburt Road.

e. Other – There was none.

IV. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION – There was none.

V. DISCUSSION: PLAN OF CONSERVATION & DEVELOPEMENT

There was a request passed on to the First Selectman requesting an approval for regulations which involved utilizing 10,000 gallon cistern tanks in new subdivisions to aid firefighters. This request was then returned back to the Fire Chief requesting additional information on developing a standard for how many cisterns would be needed for a sub-division.

VI. STAFF/COMMISSION REPORT

Mr. Askew distributed the Wetland Agent Report to the Commission. **Note:** The first picture included depicts the Deerfield Drive property and the second the Schneider Road property.

Mr. Askew also mentioned the Gegenbach property, which the Commission approved an outbuilding on last month. The property owner has decided to have the back portion of the property logged by a commercial logging company in order to remove the large pines. Mr. Askew inspected the harvest area. Most of the area is within the upland review area of a stream and wetland, but no harvesting or skid trails will be within wetlands or watercourses. Deciduous trees and hemlocks will not be cut, so the harvest is not a clearcut. The activity is a permitted use of right. Given the limited area of the harvest (6 acres) Mr. Askew gave the logger verbal permission to start the harvest.

A motion was made by Joan Formeister; seconded by Henry Broer and unanimously voted to accept the Wetland Agent's Report.

VII. CORRESEPENDENT AND BILLS

A motion was made by Joan Formeister; seconded by Dan Fraro and unanimously voted to pay the Journal Inquirer bills in the amount of \$70.83 and \$62.96.

VIII. MINUTES APPROVAL: July 11, 2007 & July 25, 2007

A motion was made by Dan Fraro; seconded by Henry Broer and unanimously voted to approve the meeting minutes of July 11, 2007 as presented.

July 25, 2007 minutes changes to be made: "Regular" meeting to be changed to "Special" meeting on the header and first paragraph of minutes.

A motion was made by Dan Fraro; seconded by Henry Broer and unanimously voted to approve the July 25, 2007 meeting minutes as amended.

IX. ADJOURNEMENT

A motion was made by Todd Whitford; seconded by Dan Fraro and unanimously voted to adjournment the September 5, 2007 Conservation Commission meeting at 7:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer D. Boudreau
Recording Secretary

Candice Aleks
Board Secretary

MINUTES ARE NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL APPROVAL AT A SUBSEQUENT MEETING