

**TOWN OF SOMERS  
CONSERVATION COMMISSION  
P.O. BOX 308  
SOMERS, CT 06071  
CONSERVATION MINUTES  
REGULAR MEETING  
WEDNESDAY, August 6, 2008  
TOWN HALL – 7:00 P.M.**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Joan Formeister called the regular meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. Members Candace Aleks, Henry Broer, Joan Formeister, Dan Fraro, Todd Whitford, and Lise Wood (seated for Karl Walton) were present and constituted a quorum.

Also present was Erosion Control/Wetland Enforcement Officer, David Askew.

**II. OLD BUSINESS**

- a. DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE DECISION: WETLANDS APPLICATION #596: WETLAND & POND RESTORATION & MAINTENANCE OF EXISTING (UNAUTHORIZED) POND, 238 GEORGE WOOD ROAD, CAMEROTA**

Mr. Askew explained that Mr. Camerota was unable to attend the Conservation meeting of August 6<sup>th</sup>, and that he requested that the Commission table the application until the next Conservation Commission meeting. Due to the timeline, no extension was needed and the Commission tabled the above item until the next meeting so that Mr. Camerota could be in attendance.

- b. DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE DECISION: WETLANDS APPLICATION #598: NEW DRIVEWAY CROSSING THRASHER BROOK, 178 STAFFORD ROAD, VAN WINGERDEN**

Both Commission members Broer and Wood recused themselves.

Mrs. Formeister called for a vote to initiate discussion. A motion was made by Mr. Fraro and seconded by Ms. Aleks to approve Wetlands Application #598 for a new driveway crossing Thrasher Brook at 178 Stafford Road.

Michael Mocko, Environmental Consultant, represented Mr. Van Wingerden. As stated at the last meeting, Mr. Van Wingerden wishes to repair and use the original driveway to his home at 216 Stafford Road (216 is the correct address for the residence). This driveway was abandoned when a culvert under it collapsed. He is currently utilizing a farm access road. The farm access road is now showing signs of wear and in the future may not be viable.

Mr. Van Wingerden plans on replacing the culvert with two box culverts; one 5x8 and another 4x8. They will be parallel: with one of the culverts a foot lower to carry normal stream flow to keep the culvert scoured and prevent sediment accumulation; and the other culvert able to accept flood water flows. The current channel will be leveled with a 6-inch bed of crushed stone and the culvert will be set with a crane. In addition, the culverts have been sized with near 100-year storm capacity and the driveway will be designed to serve as an emergency spillway, with the downslope side of the driveway armored with rip-rap.

Mr. Askew recommended that a third party; someone with qualifications such as Mr. Mocko, be onsite during the construction to make sure the process is done correctly.

Mr. Fraro amended his initial motion, seconded by Ms. Aleks and unanimously voted to approve Wetlands Application #598 for a new driveway crossing Thrasher Brook at 178 Stafford Road with the condition that a third party be onsite during construction.

Mr. Mock presented Mr. Askew with the monthly report for Grower Direct.

- c. **OTHER** – There was no other Old Business.

### **III. NEW BUSINESS**

- a. **WETLANDS APPLICATION #597: DRIVEWAY CROSSING WETLAND, 75 FRANKLIN WOODS DRIVE, PATSUN**

Mr. Mocko explained that Mr. Jim Patsun wishes to install a driveway prior to construction of the home or selling of the lot. The plan includes installation of a culvert, located outside the wetland area, to accept drainage from an existing stone-lined swale which comes from an adjoining lot. There is also a small area of wetlands which the driveway will cross over at the narrowest point. The total impact to the wetlands will be approximately 500 to 600 square feet.

The wetland is formed by groundwater seepage on the side of the hill and was recently delineated by Soil Scientist, Richard Zulick. During a site inspection, Mr. Askew checked adjacent soils, which support hydrophytic vegetation, and noted that the soils are not wetland soils as defined by state statute.

Mr. Mocko explained that erosion controls are shown on the site plan.

There is an existing town easement on the property that allows for the maintenance of a detention basin that accepts drainage from the street. The basin is located just downstream of the wetland. There is standing water at this time in the detention basin, and it is unclear if this basin dries up or holds water all year round. Mr. Mock mentioned that all work for this application will be done outside of this easement area.

Mr. Askew made a suggestion that Mr. Mocko create a more defined swale upslope of the driveway to accept water from the groundwater seep on the slope. The swale should be rip-rapped and discharge at the culvert crossing. Mr. Mocko concurred and said that the swale could be installed during construction. Mr. Fraro also recommended that as a condition of approval the wetland boundary be permanently delineated with markers provided by the town.

This application will be further discussed at next month's meeting. Mr. Mocko asked if his presence at the meeting was necessary and it was the consensus of the Commission that all issues had been addressed and Mr. Mocko did not have to attend.

- b. **OTHER** – There was no other New Business.

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

### **V. DISCUSSION: PLAN OF CONSERVATION & Development – There was none.**

### **VI. STAFF/COMMISSION REPORT**

*A motion was made by Ms. Wood; seconded by Mr. Fraro and unanimously voted to accept the Staff Commission report for June and July, 2008.*

### **VII. CORRESPONDENCE AND BILLS – There were none.**

**VIII. MINUTES APPROVAL: July 9<sup>th</sup>, 2008**

*A motion was made by Ms. Wood; seconded by Mr. Fraro and unanimously voted to accept the meeting minutes of July 9th, 2008.*

**IX. ADJOURNMENT**

*A motion was made by Ms. Wood; seconded by Mr. Fraro, and unanimously voted to adjourn the April 2, 2008 Conservation Commission meeting at 7:40 p.m.*

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer D. Boudreau

Candace Aleks

Recording Secretary

Commission Secretary

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