

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

**CONSERVATION MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
Wednesday, December 3, 2008
Town Hall – 7:00 p.m.**

I. CALL TO ORDER

Vice Chairman Karl Walton called the Meeting to order at 7:07pm. Members, Candace Aleks, Dan Fraro, Todd Whitford, and Alternate Member Lise Wood (seated for Joan Formeister) were present and constituted a quorum. Also present were Erosion Control/Wetland Agent David Askew and Joanna Winkler, Wetland Agent-In-Training.

II. OLD BUSINESS

a. DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE DECISION: WETLANDS APPLICATION #603: RETAINING WALL & EMERGENCY REPAIR OF STREAMBANK (ATF), 7 OLD HAMPDEN ROAD (AKA 449 STAFFORD ROAD), LARRABEE

Mr. Askew explained that he had received an engineer-stamped plan, as previously requested during the October 1, 2008 Conservation Commission meeting, and that the applicant constructed the structure as shown on the plan.

A motion was made by Dan Fraro, seconded by Candace Aleks, and unanimously voted to approve Larrabee's Wetlands Application #603 for a retaining wall and emergency repair of a streambank (ATF) at 449 Stafford Road.

Lise Wood recused herself from this portion of the meeting.

b. DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE DECISION: MODIFICATION OF WETLAND PERMIT #579: GRADING IN UPLAND REVIEW AREA, 31 SOUTH ROAD, SHADY LAKE LLC

Mr. Avery provided a landscape plan, as requested during the October 1, 2008 Conservation Commission meeting. Mr. Avery explained that the beach area adjacent to Shady Lake, originally omitted from the plan, is now depicted on the drawing and will not be disturbed during site development. Mr. Avery further explained that units 4, 5, 6, and 7 would be constructed as walkouts, while unit 8 will be a half-walkout, and unit 9 will no longer be a walkout. The modifications will require more grading than shown on the original plan.

Mr. Askew explained that he and Mr. Avery had inspected the area proposed for units 8 and 9 and identified a limit of excavation. Trees along the shoreline will not be disturbed and excavation will be limited to minimize root damage. Mr. Askew recommended a condition that he and Mr. Avery have a pre-construction meeting.

A motion was made by Candace Aleks, seconded by Dan Fraro and unanimously voted to approve Shady Lake LLC's modification of Wetlands Application #579 for grading in an upland review area at 31 South Road, with the condition that a pre-construction walk be scheduled between Mr. Askew and Mr. Avery to set a limit of disturbance.

Lise Wood rejoined the Commission at this point of the meeting.

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

III. NEW BUSINESS

- a. **DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE DECISION: WETLANDS APPLICATION #604: FOOTBRIDGE CROSSING STREAM, NCLT (WHITAKER) PROPERTY, ZAWISTOWSKI**

Mr. Zawistowski, who is working on an Eagle Scout project, provided a packet of conceptual drawings depicting the proposed footbridge. Mr. Zawistowski explained the drawings to the Commission, as well as some modifications that will be made to the plans. These modifications include added width, length, and structural support.

Mr. Askew stated that the location of the crossing is appropriate, in that it is narrow and has stable banks. The area is already used as a crossing location and the stream bottom is rocky. There are no wetlands associated with the stream at this location and the stream tends to stay within its banks.

Board members inquired as to the start date of the construction, and Mr. Zawistowski informed them that funds and materials had been gathered, and the preliminary holes for supports had already been dug. Mr. Askew stated that he had given verbal permission for supports after consulting with the chairman to allow holes to be dug before the ground froze.

A motion was made by Todd Whitford, seconded by Lise Wood, and unanimously voted to approve Zawistowski's Wetlands Application #604 for a footbridge crossing a stream on NCLT (Whitaker) Property.

- b. **DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE DECISION: WETLANDS APPLICATION #605: DRIVEWAY & BERM IN UPLAND REVIEW AREA, 410 SPRINGFIELD ROAD, MASHIAK**

Mr. Mashiak described the proposed driveway and berm, and explained that the berm is being proposed as a method of preventing basement flooding, and will be used in conjunction with a sump pump. Mr. Mashiak provided a drawing depicting the location of the proposed road and berm. Wetlands were flagged by Michael Gragnolati, accompanied by Mr. Askew. At one location, the proposed driveway runs directly along the edge of the wetland. Mr. Gragnolati submitted a letter describing the wetlands as previously disturbed (filled) with relatively low functional values. Mr. Askew concurs with this characterization.

Mr. Askew requested that Mr. Mashiak install silt fence along the sloped edge of excavation during construction and recommended a preconstruction meeting with the contractor.

A motion was made by Todd Whitford, seconded by Dan Fraro, and unanimously voted to approve Mashiak's Wetlands Application #605 for a driveway and berm in an upland review area at 410 Springfield Road with the condition that the applicant and Mr. Askew have a preconstruction meeting.

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

IV. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

The students present in the audience requested a roll call of the Commission members, so that they may report the names of the members as part of a classroom assignment. The members obliged. The students additionally requested signatures, which were deferred until the completion of the meeting.

V. DISCUSSION: PLAN OF CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT

Todd Whitford asked the other Conservation Commission members to summarize a previous meeting that he was unable to attend. Karl Walton responded that he had attended the meeting, and provided a synopsis. Dan Fraro asked if the allocation of grant money had been discussed at the meeting, and Karl Walton responded that it had not been discussed.

VI. STAFF/COMMISSION REPORT

Wetland Agent, David Askew, presented his December report.

A motion was made by Lise Wood, seconded by Todd Whitford, and unanimously voted to accept the the Wetland Agent's Staff report dated December 3, 2008 as presented.

VII. CORRESPONDENCE AND BILLS

- a. Mr. Askew presented a contract for signature from the North Central Conservation District, for Mr. Askew's services as Wetland Agent for the Town of Somers from July 1, 2008 through June 30, 2009.
- b. Mr. Askew presented two bills from the *Journal Inquirer* for public notices, in the amounts of \$78.70 and \$70.83.

A motion was made by Dan Fraro, seconded by Candace Aleks and voted unanimously that the bills be paid.

VIII. MINUTES APPROVAL

Ms. Wood expressed concern regarding an item on page 3 of the October minutes. Ms. Wood stated that she had recused herself from item b: Modification of Wetland Permit #579: Grading in Upland Review Area, 31 South Road, Shady Lake LLC. A motion was made by Dan Fraro, seconded by Candace Aleks and voted unanimously that the meeting minutes from October be accepted, with the correction posed by Ms. Wood.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Lise Wood, seconded by Dan Fraro, and unanimously voted to adjourn the December 3, 2008 Conservation Commission meeting at 7:59 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joanna Winkler
Acting Recording Secretary

Candace Aleks
Commission Secretary

MINUTES ARE NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL APPROVAL AT A SUBSEQUENT MEETING.