

**TOWN OF SOMERS  
CONSERVATION COMMISSION  
600 Main Street  
P. O. Box 308  
Somers, CT 06071**

**CONSERVATION MINUTES  
REGULAR MEETING  
Wednesday, June 3, 2009  
7:00 p.m. Town Hall**

**I. Call to Order:**

Chairman Joan Formeister called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Members present were: Joan Formeister, Todd Whitford, Henry Broer, Candace Aleks, Dan Fraro and Alternate Lise Wood (seated for Karl Walton). Also present was David Askew, Wetlands Agent.

It was requested that **Wetlands Application #610: Addition In Upland Review Area, 974 Main Street, Dauphin** be added to the agenda. A motion was made by Joan Formeister; seconded by Lise Wood and unanimously voted to add this item to the agenda.

**II. OLD BUSINESS:** There was none.

**III. NEW BUSINESS:**

**a. Wetlands Application #608: Driveway for New House Within Wetland, 142 Root Road, Maulucci**

Dave Palmberg of William R. Palmberg and Son LLC presented a set of drawings for this property. The owner is seeking to construct a driveway to access a proposed house. It would be a 16' wide gravel driveway with some portions paved. The parcel contains wetlands and upland review area located on the east side of Root Road. It has three land-locked lots. The proposed driveway will cross one wetland area and go around the main wetland within 5-10 feet of the wetland boundary. There would be an access drive servicing the other parcels. The proposed driveway follows a former skidder road. Other alternative routes were considered but Dave Palmberg feels these alternate routes would cause more impact to the wetland than the one he is proposing.

David Askew is concerned that the location of the proposed driveway will impact the area of the wetland with the highest wetland functions and values. This portion of the wetland has the greatest diversity of vegetation and has more persistent standing water. Habitat values of the wetland in this area are expected to be higher based on vegetative diversity. Since potential impacts are related to storm water, the location of the driveway at the upper end of the wetland could cause impacts to alter more wetland than if an alternative location at the far end of the wetland could be used.

Mr. Palmberg and Richard Zulick, the Project Soil Scientist, discussed the alternative wetland crossing the other end of the wetland. Mr. Askew inspected the site of the proposed alternative, but thought there was a location at the furthest end of the parcel, where there is an existing skid road, that may be more appropriate. He recommended that additional information be submitted for the next meeting addressing the third alternative location, the relative values associated with the proposed and alternative crossings, and expected impacts at each location. He also suggested that if the proposed location was still the preferable location after additional analysis, that a storm water retention and treatment system be constructed to reduce wetland impacts.

Todd Whitford asked if the house location was the only place it could go and Mr. Palmberg replied that the location is very flat and other areas contain ledge and may be too steep to site a house. Mr. Zulick also commented that other areas on the property would be limited for septic.

In summation, Mr. Palmberg noted that there would be less paved area on the proposed driveway as opposed to the alternate route. Richard Zulick suggested a stone-based impervious surface for the wetland crossing which will allow for the water to pass beneath it.

Candace Aleks asked if the abutters would be negatively affected by this project and Dave Askew said he could see no negative impact on the abutters.

Joan Formeister said that both driveway locations should be considered and expanded upon. She said the Commission is not ready to approve either location at this time. A more detailed drawing should be presented to the Commission at the next meeting.

**b. Wetlands Application #609: Drainage Improvements and Wetland Mitigation, 56 Egypt Road, Four Town Fairgrounds**

Mike Mocko was asked to look at some drainage problems at the Four Town Fairgrounds. One of the horse rings has standing water and there is some flooding of the bleachers during major rainstorms. This property has an outstanding notice of violation and an order to remove fill from the wetlands. Don Slanetz will be doing this work. The Board of the fairgrounds wants to construct another pole barn in two or three years with no wetlands encroachment. Mr. Mocko presented a plan of the proposed mitigation of the wetland, which includes fill removal in two areas. A wet seed mix will be applied and the phragmites will be reduced by twice a year mowing. Mr. Mocko also has a drainage plan that includes a surface water swale that will drain into the wetlands. He also proposes install underdrains to remove any standing water in the soil and allow the area to dry out quickly.

The future pole barn area is all flat and currently grassed. It will be a minimum of 60' setback from the wetlands edge. A silt fence will be installed. The building is 50' x 160' and will be used to house horses, etc. It will be within the 100' buffer zone and the soils are sandy.

Mike Mocko will meet with Dave Askew in the following weeks to review the plans at the site. He would also like to know the cost of the application fee.

**c. Discussion: Status of Groundwater Monitoring, 145 Highland View Drive, McCormack**

Dave Askew said that this plan was approved back in February to install curtain drains on Lot #12 in an attempt to drop the water table so the site can support septic systems. Only a small section of the drain was within the 100-foot upland review area. The existing wetland consists of wetland meadow with a small area of standing water that supports obligate vernal pool species (primarily wood frogs). The wetland is an isolate remnant of a larger wetland that was bisected when the subdivision road was constructed.

A test hole was placed at the edge of the wetlands to monitor the groundwater impact to the wetland. As of last week, it drained the wetland. A small portion of the wetland supported wood frogs tadpoles and all of the resident tadpoles died as a result of the draining. Chris Stintson of Alford Associates said it seems to be a symptom of the dry spring. Since there is no pending application, Mr. Askew said the applicant should submit a plan for the lot within a short period of time. Since the curtain drain effectively drained the wetland, the applicant should submit a plan address the drainage and impacts to wetlands.

**d. Other: Wetlands Application #610: Addition In Upland Review Area, 974 Main Street, Dauphin**

Gary Dauphin said that the owners need another bedroom because of family expansion. They would like to take the existing deck and extend it to create a master bedroom. Dave Askew stated there is no expected impact to the adjacent stream. The extension will be on piers to create an additional 265 square feet of living space. The Commission had no further comment on the application.

There was no **Other New Business**.

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

V. **STAFF/COMMISSION REPORT:**

David Askew reviewed his Wetland Agent report with the Commission. He talked about updating the wetland map that is in Land Use Office. Many changes have occurred since this map was created. However, an updated wetland map would have to be approved at a Town Hearing. A motion was made by Dan Fraro; seconded by Lise Wood and unanimously voted to approve the Wetland Agent's report.

VI. **CORRESPONDENCE AND BILLS:** There were none.

VII. **MINUTES APPROVAL:** May 6, 2009

A motion was left out of Item a, Page 1 of these minutes. The following was added: "A motion was made by Lise Wood; seconded by Karl Walton and unanimously voted to approve Lipton's Wetlands Application #607 for a 3-lot subdivision in an upland review area at 380 Four Bridges Road."

A motion was made by Lise Wood; seconded by Dan Fraro and unanimously voted to approve the 5/6/09 minutes, as amended.

VIII. **ADJOURNMENT:**

A motion made by Lise Wood; seconded by Dan Fraro and unanimously voted to adjourn the June 3, 2009 Conservation Commission meeting at 9:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Candace Aleks, Secretary  
Connie Carenzo, Recording Secretary

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