

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

**CONSERVATION MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
Wednesday, August 5, 2009
Town Hall – 7:00 p.m.**

I. CALL TO ORDER

Candace Aleks (acting Chairman for Joan Formeister), called the Meeting to order at 7:03pm. Members Lise Wood (Seated for Dan Fraro), Henry Broer, and Todd Whitford were present and constituted a quorum.

Also present were Erosion Control/Wetland Agent David Askew and Joanna Winkler, Wetland Agent-In-Training.

Chairman Joan Formeister entered the meeting at 7:17pm.

II. OLD BUSINESS

a. DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE DECISION: WETLANDS APPLICATION #611, IN-GROUND SWIMMING POOL IN UPLAND REVIEW AREA, 57 COLLINS ROAD, CELOTTO.

Mr. Askew commented that the proposed pool location was at least 50 feet from any wetlands or watercourses, and that the site is relatively flat, with a low risk for erosion. The Commission did not have any additional issues.

A motion was made by Henry Broer, seconded by Lise Wood, and unanimously voted to approve Wetlands Application #611: In-Ground Swimming Pool in Upland Review Area, 57 Collins Road, Celotto.

b. DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE DECISION: WETLAND APPLICATION #612: THREE-LOT SUBDIVISION, 145 HIGHLAND VIEW DRIVE, MACCORMACK

Mr. Stintson of Alford Associates presented revised project plans, which include removal of the existing stockpile from the wetland and replanting of the area. Mr. Askew asked if the revised plans depicted clearing limits, as requested at the previous meeting. Mr. Stintson stated that the silt fence was the approximate limit of clearing. Mr. Askew recommended that a clearing limit be shown on the plans as a condition of approval. Mr. Stintson presented planting plans for the area where the stockpile is to be removed. The plan was prepared by the project soil scientist, James McManus. Mr. Askew stated that the applicant seemed to have addressed the Commission's concerns and that issues regarding wetland hydrology and other potential impacts to the wetland were discussed at the last meeting. It is Mr. Askew's professional opinion that although there have been impacts to groundwater hydrology resulting from the installation of curtain drains, the wetland will not be significantly dewatered and wetland conditions will persist. Two potential conditions of approval were discussed, including the showing the limit of clearing on the plan and a requirement that the removal of the stockpile and replanting of the wetland area occur prior to house construction.

A motion was made by Todd Whitford, seconded by Lise Wood and unanimously voted to approve Wetlands Application #612: Three-Lot Subdivision, 145 Highland View Drive, MacCormack, with conditions that: 1) a

plan be submitted prior to construction showing the limits of clearing on the project plans; 2) removal of the stockpile within the wetland and replanting as depicted in the planting plan occur prior to commencement of house construction.

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

III. NEW BUSINESS

a. **WETLANDS APPLICATION #613: EXTEND DRAIN TO PREVENT ONGOING EROSION, 10 NOAH CHAPIN DRIVE, GRONDIN.**

The proposal is to extend an existing 30 inch culvert an additional 150 feet within an intermittent stream. The town maintains a 30' drainage easement adjacent to the stream, which accepts water from an existing culvert under Parsons Street. Mr. Askew described existing conditions and site history. The site has a long history of erosion within the stream channel, starting at the outlet of the 30 inch pipe. Mr. Askew explained that the Town of Somers Department of Public Works has attempted to stabilize the stream with rip-rap in the past, but erosion has persisted. Biostabilization measures may work in the area, but the property owners would prefer to maintain the area as lawn. Mr. Askew has not conducted a detailed investigation of the stream but it appears that instream habitat is limited by intermittent flow.

b. **WETLAND APPLICATION #614: CREATE LIVESTOCK CROSSING IN WETLANDS AND REMOVE STOCKPILE, 183 MAPLE STREET, PINNEY. (CORRECTED)**

Mr. Belsky, the Manager of Lindy Farms, the lessee of the Pinney property on which the proposed activity will occur, presented project plans and photographs of the property. Mr. Belsky described the proposed 30-foot wide watercourse crossing, including two 24-inch pipes. Mr. Belsky explained that the purpose of the project is to prevent livestock (horse) access to the brook with exclusionary fencing. The crossing will allow the horses to move between two pastures bi-sected by the stream. The crossing will also permit machinery access for maintenance of the pastures.

The project also involves removal of a few spoils piles that were left after a nearby pond was dredged several years ago. The piles will be removed and used for the construction of the crossing, with remaining spoils to be spread out. Mr. Askew asked that the applicant ensure that the spoils are not spread out within the wetland area. The Commission noted that the agenda listed the address as "183 Pinney Road", which was an error, and should read "183 Maple Street". Mr. Askew stated that the crossing, which would prevent horses from entering the wetland area, is considered a best management practice for agriculture.

There was no other New Business.

IV. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

There was no audience participation.

V. STAFF/COMMISSION REPORT

Wetland Agent, David Askew, presented his August report.

A motion was made by Lise Wood, seconded by Candace Aleks, and voted unanimously to accept the Staff/Commission report dated August 5, 2009 as presented.

VI. CORRESPONDENCE AND BILLS

There was no correspondence or bills.

VII. MINUTES APPROVAL

A motion was made by Lise Wood, seconded by Candace Aleks and voted unanimously that approval of the June 3, 2009 minutes be added to the agenda.

Amendments were made to a copy of the June 3, 2009 minutes changing the word “impervious” in the first paragraph on page 2 to “pervious”..

A motion was made by Candace Aleks, seconded by Lise Wood and voted unanimously to approve the June 3, 2009 minutes as amended.

Amendments were made to a copy of the July 15, 2009 minutes including revisions to the date in the header and revisions to the conditions of approval for application #608 which now read “...with conditions of a pre-construction meeting and that the driveway sub-base be constructed of pervious material.”

A motion was made by Lise Wood, seconded by Todd Whitford and voted unanimously to approve the July 15, 2009 minutes as amended.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Lise Wood, seconded by Henry Broer and unanimously voted to adjourn the August 5, 2009 Conservation Commission Meeting at 7:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joanna Winkler
Recording Secretary

Candace Aleks
Commission Secretary

MINUTES ARE NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL APPROVAL AT A SUBSEQUENT MEETING.