

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

**CONSERVATION COMMISSION MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
FEBRUARY 3, 2010
TOWN HALL – 7:00 pm**

I. CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Todd Whitford called the regular meeting of the Conservation Commission to order at 7:04 pm. Members: Candace Aleks, Henry Broer, Daniel Fraro, and Joan Formeister were seated. Also present: David Askew, Wetland Agent

II. OLD BUSINESS:

- a. Wetland Application #620: one lot re-subdivision with house, drive & septic, 40 Bailey Lane, Somers, KRI Builders

David Askew explained that the original wetland boundary included an upland area. Another soil scientist re-flagged the boundary and the wetland line has been revised. The additional upland area provides adequate room for an additional house, driveway, and septic. Mr. Leno, the landowner and developer, further explained the recent history of the lot and the proposed reconfiguration.

Mr. Askew identified the upland review area on the site plan. Only limited activity, including clearing and grading, will occur in the upland review area. He recommended that the wetland be permanently delineated with markers provided by the town, so future homeowners will be aware of the location of the wetland.

- *A motion was made by Candace Aleks to approve the application with a condition that the wetland boundary be delineated with markers provided by the town in areas adjacent to the house lot; seconded by Dan Fraro. A unanimous vote followed.*

- b. Wetland Application #621: house & drive within upland review area 151 Sokol Road, Somers, Birkenshaw

David Askew re-stated the Commission's findings at the 1/6/10 meeting - the lot revision and proposed construction will not have an impact on the wetland. He recommended permanent delineation of the wetland boundary..

- *A motion was made by Dan Fraro to approve the application with a condition that the wetland boundary be delineated with markers provided by the town in areas adjacent to the house lot; seconded by Candace Aleks. A unanimous vote followed.*

- c. Wetland Application #622: driveway crossing and grading within upland review area, 1046 Main Street, Somers Khandros

The applicant was represented by Jay Ussery. Mr. Ussery distributed a letter to the Commission outlining development of an alternate driveway location. His presentation focused on the alternative of moving the driveway west 100 feet. Issues which had been discussed at the January meeting included the slope of the original vs. an alternate

driveway as well as fish passage with the proposed culvert. Mr. Askew and Mr. Ussery inspected the culvert and determined fish passage is currently blocked by the existing culvert across Rt. 190.

Mr. Ussery re-stated his concern regarding slope as well as the need for a second intermittent watercourse crossing with the alternative driveway. He concluded with a recommendation to use the original driveway crossing.

Mr. Askew requested that a pre-construction meeting be held to address erosion control and to develop a de-watering plan, and that instream work be limited to a time period from June 1 to September 30. Mr. Ussery did not object to the proposed conditions.

- *A motion was made by Joan Formeister to approve the application with the conditions that a preconstruction meeting be held with the contractor and wetland agent and that instream work be limited to the time period between June 1 and September 30; seconded by Candace Aleks. A unanimous vote followed.*

III. NEW BUSINESS:

- a. Wetland Application #623. Driveway crossing of stream, 471 Pinney Road, Moore
- b. Determination of Permitted Use of Right for Logging with temporary crossing of stream, 471 Pinney Road, Moore

This is a 3 acre lot which currently has no access to back property because of a brook. Mr. Askew stated that the bank of the brook is the extent of the wetland area. The applicant, Mr. Moore is seeking to create a larger pasture for his horse. Additionally Mr. Moore would like to selectively cut vs. clear-cut the rear wooded area of his property. A temporary crossing consisting of a timber bridge is proposed to allow logging of the area across the brook. The temporary crossing is located downstream of the proposed permanent crossing and is required because the permanent crossing cannot accommodate a loaded skidder due to the existing structures.

- *Mr. Whitford stated that whereas the members cannot approve (a.) the permanent crossing as it requires a 14 day waiting period, he would hear a motion on (b.) the Permitted Use of Right for the proposed logging with a temporary stream crossing. A motion was made by Dan Fraro to determine that the proposed use is a Permitted Use of Right; seconded by Joan Formeister. A unanimous vote followed.*

- c. Renewal/Extension of Permit #515, issued April 6, 2005, 3-Lot Subdivision, Parker Road and South Road, Gessay & Ludwig

Mr. Askew stated that this Subdivision still has not been developed, due to the current economic climate. There are no additional issues with the extension.

- d. Proposed 2010-2011 Budget

Mr. Askew distributed copies of the proposed 2010-2011 Conservation Commission budget. A discussion followed regarding the Town's goal of a 0% increase for the proposed 2010-2011 fiscal year. It was determined, if requested, the reduction would come from "Conservation Projects". The Commission approved the budget maintaining all items at the 2009-2010 level with a 3% increase in the line item for the services of the Wetland Agent through the NCCD.

- *A motion was made by Joan Formeister to approve the proposed budget; seconded by Daniel Fraro. A unanimous vote followed.*

e. Discussion: Official Town of Somers Wetland Map

Mr. Askew laid out the Official Wetland Map for the members to view. State statutes require that the Town have an official Wetland Map. Printed in the 1970's, it is nearly illegible at this time. Mr. Askew also showed the Commission the DEP Alluvial and Hydric-Soil Map, which might be adopted by the Town as the official map. Adoption of a new Map would require that a Public Hearing be held. The members decided to take no action, make no recommendation at this time regarding the Official Wetland Map.

IV. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION:

None.

V. STAFF /COMMISSION REPORT:

David Askew distributed his Wetland Agent's Report, dated 2/3/2010.

A motion was made by Joan Formeister to accept the report; seconded by Dan Fraro. A unanimous vote followed

VI. CORRESPONDENCE & BILLS:

David Askew distributed copies of the current Wetlands Regulation booklet to each member.

VII. MINUTES APPROVAL (1/06/10):

Todd Whitford asked the members for comments on the 1/06/10 Minutes. None of the members brought forth any changes or edits. It was decided that Candace Aleks, as Secretary of the Conservation Commission, should be listed at the end of each Meeting's Minutes.

A motion was made by Joan Formeister to approve the Minutes with this addition; seconded by Dan Fraro, and unanimously voted to approve by the members.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT:

A motion to adjourn was made by Joan Formeister; seconded by Dan Fraro, and unanimously approved to adjourn the February 3, 2010 meeting of the Conservation Commission at 7:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Candace Aleks, Secretary

Kimberly E. Dombek, Recording Secretary

MINUTES ARE NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL APPROVAL AT A SUBSEQUENT MEETING.