

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

**CONSERVATION COMMISSION MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
SEPTEMBER 1, 2010
TOWN HALL – 7:00 pm**

I. CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Todd Whitford called the regular meeting of the Conservation Commission to order at 7:03 pm. Members present included: Henry Broer, Joan Formeister, Candace Aleks, and Daniel Fraro. Alternate member Lise Woods was seated for Karl Walton. Also present: David Askew, Wetland Agent.

II. OLD BUSINESS:

None

III. NEW BUSINESS:

- a. Wetland Application #630: Grading of slope to create pasture, completion of grading around pond (new permit for activities approved under expired permit #499) 89 Partridge Run. Worthington Pond LLC/Dan Roulier.**

Mike Mocko addressed the Commission as the applicant's representative. He stated there has been no change of plan. The pond was dug when the original permit was obtained in 2004. Currently there are large piles of top soil off to the side. Vegetation has been established. The applicant wants to clean out the piles of soil and spread them west of the pond, where the pasture will be established. He added that grading of the slope/pasture area is half finished. The piles of top soil will be used to restore and re-seed the new pasture. Mr. Mocko asked the Commission for more time to complete the project. He estimated they would need a month. West of the pond site some of the slope previously

David Askew mentioned that he has inspected the site, and that erosion is not currently an issue because soils are primarily gravel. However, the site should be monitored during the excavation process to ensure that soils do not erode into the nearby wetland. A permit cannot be issued until the appeal period is over.

- b. Modification of Permit #627: Install round culverts instead of approved box culverts for new driveway crossing. 45 Lindell Drive. Fred and Kathleen Spielman.**

Mike Mocko addressed the Commission as the applicant's representative. He informed members that the applicants had been previously approved for a new driveway crossing. He stated that they were now asking to salvage the old culvert to use in the new crossing for budgetary reasons. He mentioned that the old culverts exceed the 50 Year Flood

specifications. Mr. Mocko said the work would be done when there is little or no water flow. He expects 1 day of exposure, working in the streambed.

Mr. Whitford asked whether a box culvert is better than a round culvert. Mr. Askew said that a box culvert is typically the best option for maintenance of the streambed. Mr. Mocko explained that provisions have been made for habitat and fish in the stream. He explained that one culvert would be 6 inches lower to allow gravel to wash into the culvert and maintain flow during low water conditions. The 2nd culvert will be higher, coming into use in flood conditions.

A motion was made by Joan Formeister to approve the modification of Permit #627; seconded by Dan Fraro. A unanimous vote followed.

c. Wetland Application #631: Fill in wetland associated with development of pasture. 260 Main Street. Frank Antonacci-KC 260 Main Street LLC.

David Palmberg, and the applicant's Farm Manager, John Belskie, of Lindy Farms addressed the Commission. Mr. Palmberg explained that the application to fill a small wetland area for pasture had been previously denied.

Mr. Broer asked the size of the area to be filled. Mr. Askew responded that approximately 2,300 square feet is wetland area. Mr. Whitford asked for clarification as to the difference in this application from the original.

Mr. Palmberg laid out a site plan which shows the property, wetland area, and proposed pasture. The plan also depicted different fencing scenarios and alternatives. He then explained that in the original application, no grading had been considered. In the current application they will be re-grading the slope, lowering the grade to offset fill in the floodplain. He further explained that the new plan also calls for installing a 12" pipe in the existing channel, to maintain the discharge to the Scantic River. Silt fencing is also planned.

Mr. Askew asked about the amount of proposed clearing along the Scantic River. Mr. Belsky responded that most of the clearing had been completed and he was not aware of additional plans for clearing along the river. Mr. Askew then explained that there could be no decision tonight. They would need to wait until the Appeal period expired. He added that filling of the wetland could not be done until the permit was issued. Mr. Belskie asked about seeding and grading. Mr. Askew stated that grading and seeding in the upland could be done as a permitted use of right, as determined by the Commission in prior meetings.

IV. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION:

None

V. STAFF/COMMISSION REPORT:

David Askew distributed his Wetland Agent's July/August 2010 Report.

A motion was made by Joan Formeister to accept Wetland Agent's July/August report; seconded by Lise Woods. A unanimous vote followed.

VI. CORRESPONDENCE AND BILLS; CONTRACT FOR SERVICES NCCD:

David Askew submitted a copy of his annual Agreement/Contract for Services NCCD.

A motion was made by Joan Formeister to approve the Contract for Services NCCD; seconded by Lise Woods. A unanimous vote followed.

Mr. Askew then submitted the following invoices for payment:

North Central Conservation District (contribution)	\$1,624.00
Journal Inquirer	\$ 78.70

A motion was made by Lise Woods to approve these invoices for payment; seconded by Dan Fraro, then unanimously approved by the members.

VII. MINUTES APPROVAL: 7/7/2010

Mr. Whitford asked the members for comments or corrections on the 7/7/2010 Minutes. Mr. Broer stated that on Page 2, New Business, b – it should also state that he had suggested a site visit take place. Members agreed that this should be added to the Minutes.

A motion was made by Joan Formeister to approve the 7/7/2010 Minutes as amended; seconded by Candace Aleks, and then unanimously voted to approve by the members.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT:

A motion to adjourn was made by Lise Woods; seconded by Joan Formeister, and unanimously approved to adjourn the September 1, 2010 Regular meeting of the Conservation Commission at 7:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Candace Aleks, Secretary

Kimberly E. Dombek, Recording Secretary

MINUTES ARE NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL APPROVAL AT A SUBSEQUENT MEETING.