

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

**CONSERVATION COMMISSION MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
DECEMBER 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 7:04 pm. Members present included: Joan Formeister, Candace Aleks, and Karl Walton. Also present: David Askew, Wetland Agent and Jeff Bord Town Engineer.

II. OLD BUSINESS:

a. Discussion/Decision, Wetland Application #634: Fill in wetland for driveway crossing to new single family residence. Mark Damon and Peter Sonski. 28 Goodwin Drive.

David Palmberg addressed members as the Applicant's representative. He explained that they are discussing 2 parcels, #1 a 19 acre building lot, and #2 a 1 acre hayfield/pasture. They are proposing combining the parcels and creating a driveway to serve both lots which would cross the wetland. Mr. Palmberg explained that the proposed driveway and associated side slopes will require filling 4831 square feet of wetlands. They are proposing a 12 inch culvert under the drive to maintain existing drainage patterns.

Mr. Palmberg distributed copies of his report entitled Alternative Analysis. As outlined, they had considered alternatives to crossing the wetland, two scenarios proved incompatible for a variety of reasons. They third, their recommended alternative focuses on reconfiguring the lot lines as much as possible, a change in access point, and seeding to provide a vegetated buffer.

Mr. Palmberg said the new residence will have both private well and septic system. He stated that silt fencing will be used for erosion control, and the drainage right of way will not be disturbed. Mr. Palmberg also distributed a letter from the Soil Scientist, Richard Zulick indicating that the crossing indicating that the proposed activity will have a minimal impact on hydrology and wildlife and that the proposed activity will have no additional significant negative impact on the site, compared to the existing condition, as much of the parcel is maintained as a hay field. Mr. Askew indicated that the functional core of the wetland is located to the east and south of the proposed driveway and the wetland within the proposed fill area has been disturbed by drainage and other activity predating regulations.

A motion was made by Karl Walton to approve the Wetland Application #634; seconded by Candace Aleks.

b. Discussion/Decision, Wetland Application #635: Construction of Stormwater Retention Basin and Drainage in Upland Review Area. Jason and Amy Avery. 225 Field Road.

c. Discussion/Decision, Wetland Application #636: Stormwater Drainage into Upland Review Area. Robert Smyth. 251 Field Road. 225 Field Road.

Mr. Askew suggested the Commission address items b & c simultaneously as it is one project. Members agreed. They first focused on the Retention Basin.

Attorney George Schober addressed the Commission as representative for both the Avery's and Mr. Smyth. He stated his intent tonight, was simply to update the Commission and answer any questions they might have. He explained that Mr. Askew had walked the site of the proposed Stormwater Retention Basin with the project engineer, Mike Mocko. Mr. Schober outlined Mr. Askew's concern about the proposed basin; if it does not function as designed. He stated they are aware it needs an outlet, and that they are in the process of obtaining easements from the abutting properties. He finished by stating he was not aware of any impact on wetlands.

Mr. Bord stated there was no emergency overflow concern, as the outlet would drain down to the brook.

Mr. Walton pointed out that, without an easement, the Commission could take no action this evening.

Mr. Whitford questioned the emergency spillway; was that an issue. Mr. Walton responded that the basin wouldn't flow all of the time. Mr. Askew concurred, stating that most of the time, it would be empty.

Mr. Bord questioned a worst case scenario, stating that the basin can handle a 100 Year Storm, but could it handle a 200 Year Storm. Mr. Schober did not know that answer, and said that Mr. Mocko would be attending the next Conservation Commission meeting and would be better able to respond to these questions.

III. NEW BUSINESS:

None.

IV. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION:

None

V. STAFF/COMMISSION REPORT:

Mr. Askew distributed copies of the Wetland Agent's December 2010 Report.

A motion was made by Karl Walton to accept the Wetland Agent's December 2010 report; seconded by Joan Formeister. A unanimous vote followed.

VI. CORRESPONDENCE AND BILLS:

Mr. Askew submitted the following invoice for payment:

| | |
|------------------|---------|
| Journal Inquirer | \$62.96 |
|------------------|---------|

A motion was made by Karl Walton to pay the invoice; seconded by Candace Aleks. A unanimous vote followed.

VII. MINUTES APPROVAL: 11/03/2010

Mr. Whitford asked the members for comments or corrections on the 11/03/2010 Minutes. None were brought forth.

A motion was made by Karl Walton to approve the 11/03/2010 Minutes as written; seconded by Candace Aleks, and then unanimously voted as approved by the members.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT:

A motion to adjourn was made by Karl Walton; seconded by Candace Aleks, and unanimously approved to adjourn the December 1, 2010 Regular meeting of the Conservation Commission at 7:36 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Candace Aleks, Secretary

Kimberly E. Dombek, Recording Secretary

MINUTES ARE NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL APPROVAL AT A SUBSEQUENT MEETING.