

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

**CONSERVATION COMMISSION MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
JANUARY 5, 2011
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 Henry Broer, and Karl Walton. Alternate member Lise Woods was seated for Dan Fraro, constituting a quorum. Also present: Joanna Winkler, Wetland Agent.

II. OLD BUSINESS:

- a. Discussion/Decision, Wetland Application #635: Construction of Stormwater Retention Basin and Drainage in Upland Review Area. Jason and Amy Avery. 225 Field Road.**
- b. Discussion/Decision, Wetland Application #636: Stormwater Drainage into Upland Review Area. Robert Smyth. 251 Field Road. 225 Field Road.**

Mr. Whitford suggested the Commission address items a & b 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 said they had made changes to the original proposal, which would minimize implications to the wetlands. He asked Mike Mocko, the project engineer, to explain those changes.

Mr. Mocko started by pointing out that the current run-off doesn't go off-site and instead goes into a low area, soaking into the ground. He reminded members of Mr. Askew's and Mr. Bord's (Town Engineer), concern regarding emergency overflow. He said they have enlarged the Retention Basin from the original plan for any increased flows from the project; which can meet a 100 Year Storm Event. Mr. Mocko said they have added an overflow pipe, for anything greater than a 100 Year Storm Event. He added that the storm drain connects with a stormwater pipe in the road, which discharges to the stream.

Mr. Mocko said that with these changes, there is no need to seek easements. He stated there are no wash-out concerns during the construction phase. He explained that any sediment would end up in the basin, which would be cleaned. He said there would be no sediment runoff to the stream. Mr. Mocko also told members that silt fencing will be used at the property lines to protect adjoining properties from sediment during construction.

Ms. Winkler told members that Mr. Askew's concerns have been addressed with these modifications to the plan. She added that Mr. Bord had requested calculations for the overflow pipe in the event of an emergency overflow. Mr. Mocko responded that the calculation would show no overflow, but that they would comply with requests from Mr. Bord. He explained that whereas only a 12 inch pipe is needed to convey the water; they have upgraded to an 18 inch pipe; which is also easier to maintain.

A motion was made by Karl Walton to approve the Wetland Applications #635 and 636, with the condition that a pre-construction meeting with Mr. Askew & Mr. Mocko take place; seconded by Lise Woods.

Ms. Winkler questioned whether Wetland Application #636 was a regulated activity. Mr. Walton disagreed, saying he felt it was. Mr. Whitford also agreed it was a regulated activity. He then restated the current motion Mr. Whitford then asked for a vote on the motion and second.

In the vote that followed: Messrs. Walton, Whitford, and Broer, and Ms. Woods voted to approve, while Ms. Formeister abstained from voting. The motion passed.

III. NEW BUSINESS:

a. Wetland Application #637: Culvert and fill within 60 feet of intermittent stream to create lawn. 27 Suncrest Drive, Carlton Mappin.

Mr. Whitford invited Mr. Mappin to address the Commission. Mr. Mappin laid out a site map and pointed out the extension of the pipe under the culvert. Mr. Broer questioned the application as being after the fact, referencing Mr. Askew's 12/9/10 email. Mr. Walton agreed; stating there had been significant activity on the property. Mr. Mappin said grading had taken place, but he was unfamiliar with the Wetlands requirements and process.

Mr. Walton stated that the pipe faces the abutting neighbor's property and that water flows there. Ms. Winkler informed members that Mr. Askew recommended that if the Commission believed the activity to represent a significant impact to the wetland, and/or potentially draw public interest, that a Public Hearing be held regarding this application. Mr. Walton agreed, adding that because of both the significant impact on the wetland and interest of an abutting property owner, the Commission can't make a decision without a public hearing. He also stated that Mr. Askew should review further ramifications to the wetlands for the Commission. Mr. Whitford concurred.

A motion was made by Karl Walton to schedule a Public Hearing for February 2, 2011 for Wetlands Application #637; seconded by Lise Woods, followed by a unanimous vote as approved.

IV. ELECTION OF OFFICERS:

A motion was made by Karl Walton to nominate Todd Whitford as Chair; Joan Formeister as Vice-Chair, and Candace Aleks as Secretary; seconded by Lise Woods, followed by a unanimous vote as approved.

V. PROPOSED 2011 MEETING DATES:

Ms. Winkler distributed copies of the proposed 2011 Conservation Commission meeting dates.

A motion was made by Karl Walton to approve the 2011 Conservation Commission meeting schedule; seconded by Joan Formeister, followed by a unanimous vote as approved.

VI. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION:

An abutting property owner to Mr. Mappin spoke up, stating he had concerns. He said he had spoken to Mr. Askew and put a Stop-Order in place on a Friday, only to see work taking place over the weekend. Mr. Walton reminded him of the Public Hearing that they had scheduled tonight, and that he would have an opportunity at that time to voice his issues.

VII. STAFF/COMMISSION REPORT:

Ms. Winkler distributed copies of the Wetland Agent's January 2011 Report.

A motion was made by Karl Walton to accept the Wetland Agent's January 2011 report; seconded by Lise Woods, followed by a unanimous vote as approved.

VIII. CORRESPONDENCE AND BILLS:

Mr. Askew submitted the following invoice for payment:

Journal Inquirer	\$70.83
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A motion was made by Karl Walton to pay the invoice; seconded by Lise Woods, followed by a unanimous vote as approved.

IX. MINUTES APPROVAL: 12/01/2010

Mr. Whitford asked the members for comments or corrections on the 12/01/2010 Minutes. None were brought forth.

A motion was made by Karl Walton to approve the 12/01/2010 Minutes as written; seconded by Joan Formeister, and then unanimously voted as approved by the members.

X. ADJOURNMENT:

A motion to adjourn was made by Karl Walton; seconded by Lise Woods, and unanimously approved to adjourn the January 5, 2011 Regular meeting of the Conservation Commission at 7:37 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Candace Aleks, Secretary

Kimberly E. Dombek, Recording Secretary

MINUTES ARE NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL APPROVAL AT A SUBSEQUENT MEETING.