

**TOWN OF SOMERS
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
600 MAIN STREET
P.O. BOX 308**

**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 7, 2012
Town Hall Lower Level Conference Room 7:00 P.M.**

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Candace Aleks, Secretary at 7:00 p.m. Commissioners in attendance were: Henry Broer, Daniel Fraro, Greg Genlot, and Lise Wood, who was seated for W. Karl Walton. Also present: Wetlands Agent, David Askew.

Absent: Chairman Todd Whitford, W. Karl Walton and Joan Formeister, Vice-Chair

OLD BUSINESS (none)

II. NEW BUSINESS

1. Application #652: Pleasant View Realty. U.S. Department of Agriculture Conservation Project to reconstruct and restore a stream. Pleasant View Farm 458 South Road.

Jeff Lipton, the landowner, discussed the site plan and history for Application #652 for Pleasant View Realty. The project is to reconstruct and restore a stream. In the early 1970's approximately 700 feet of stream was piped to allow for greater use of the land around the barn and to protect water quality from pastured animals. Now, after 40 years the culverts (probably old oil tanks) are beginning to rot and create voids in the ground that are dangerous to remaining livestock, including horses.

Mr. Lipton received engineering assistance to restore the stream from the USDA's Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS). NRCS is also cost-sharing the construction work under a program called the Environmental Quality Incentives Program. NRCS has designed the project, which includes restoring the stream to "natural" conditions, including a sinuous channel with a floodplain. The plans, which were submitted to the Commission, are detailed and comprehensive. The design includes provisions for fish habitat and other environmentally beneficial features.

Candace Aleks asked if the existing oil tanks were connected. Jeff explained that the tanks were welded together on the bottom and rubber flaps were installed on top to prevent soil from washing-in.

Other design features include raising the elevation of the brook and creating adjacent floodplain wetland. In addition there will be two bridges so cattle and machinery can cross the brook. Jeff wants to start the project in June, July or August because these are the driest months. Mr. Askew explained that the Agency could not take action on the application until the 14 day appeal period, which starts at the date of receipt, is complete.

III. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (none)

IV. STAFF/COMMISSION REPORT

Mr. Askew distributed the Wetland's Report and reported on the following properties:

Lise Wood made a motion to accept Mr. Askew's Wetland Report. Daniel Fraro seconded it. All were in favor, motion carried.

V. CORRESPONDENCE AND BILLS

Mr. Askew presented the following bills:

Journal Inquirer for \$70.83 for a total of \$283.42 most of it is re: Hinckley.

Daniel Fraro made a motion to pay the Journal Inquirer bills. Lise Wood seconded it. All were in favor, motion carried.

VI. MINUTES APPROVAL: FEBRUARY 1, 2012

Daniel Fraro made a motion to accept the February 1, 2012 Minutes as amended. Lise Wood seconded it. All were in favor, motion carried.

In the discussion of reviewing the Minutes of the previous month on page 3, 1st paragraph, in Mike Mocko's statement about the elevation of the property descending one foot over 60 ft. (very flat), Henry Broer commented that the statement was not accurate and he believes the lot slopes steeply from the road.

Candace Aleks had a few corrections on the first page under Public Hearing in the 2nd paragraph. Where it says "Attorney Landolina also explained the importance of expert testimony". Candace thought "expert testimony" should be in quotes. In the testimony of Eugene Vamos, put an "a" in front of 4-foot ditch. In the following paragraph use the word "past" instead of "passed"; change "absorbing" to "absorb". Where it says "Mr. Askew discussed the idea": it should read "Mr. Askew discussed the concept of constructing...". In the next sentence replace "will be" with "would be". In the testimony of Robert K. put his last name Kazaska.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Greg Genlot made motion to adjourn the Conservation Commission Regular Meeting at 8:00 p.m. Henry Broer seconded it. All were in favor, motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Regina C. Robinson, Recording Secretary

MINUTES ARE NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL APPROVAL AT A SUBSEQUENT MEETING