

TOWN OF SOMERS
Conservation Commission
Wednesday, November 5th, 2014
7:00 p.m.
Town Hall

MEETING MINUTES

I. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting Called to Order by Chairman Joan S. Formeister @ 7:05 P.M. In attendance were Mr. Daniel Fraro, Mr. Gregg Genlot, Mr. Todd Whitford, Mr. Henry H. Broer, Ms. Lise Wood seated for Mr. Carl Wilson and Wetland Agent, Dave Askew

II. OLD BUSINESS:

Application #677 – 325 Billings Road: The application is for grading and land levelling in the upland review area. The purpose is to create more usable land, some of which may be used for horse pasture. The grading will be no closer than 50ø to the adjacent wetland, a shrub-dominated kettle-hole. A wood chip sediment barrier will be used for erosion control. Motion to Approve Genlot, Second by Broer. Approved unanimously.

III. NEW BUSINESS

Application #678. 32 Bailey Lane – The proposal is for a reconstruction of a road/driveway across a wetland to serve a proposed single family residence. The proposed house and septic are within the upland review area. The lot is an old lot of record that has been reconfigured to make it a conforming lot by adding land and frontage from the adjacent lot, which is part of the original Gillete Brook subdivision. The newly configured lot has utility and access rights from Bailey Lane, but not from the adjacent Eleanor Drive. Attorney John Parks submitted a letter to the Commission explaining the lot, reconfiguration, and access rights to address possible alternatives that would not require wetland alteration.

Mr. Askew walked the site with Wes Wentworth, the project soil scientist. Mr. Askew requested that the (originally proposed) elevation of the culvert under the road be elevated to 302.10 ft. so the existing upstream water elevation can be maintained. This elevation is an estimate and could be adjusted during construction to reflect ground conditions. Reconstruction of the road will require filling of approximately 485 square feet of wetland. Mr. Wentworth submitted a narrative that describes the wetland and measures taken to reduce wetland impacts.

Application #679- 329 Billings Road The proposal is for a barn, indoor riding ring, driveway and parking area, outdoor riding ring and associated grading within the upland review area of large forested wetland and stream. Mr. Askew provided the Commission with a definition of the ðagricultural exemptionð from the wetland statute. He explained that grading and filling activities in

the upland review area are not specified in the exemption, but there is language addressing structures.

The Commission and Mr. Askew discussed various aspects of the exemption and there was a consensus from members that the proposed activities fall within the definition of agriculture and are therefore permitted as of right (exempt).

Fraro made a motion for determination that the proposed activities are permitted uses of right as agriculture. Second Wood. Motion passes unanimously.

IV. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION: None

V. STAFF REPORT:

Wetlands Agent Report was presented by Mr. Dave Askew, highlights were reviewed and brief discussion followed.

Motion to accept Wood. Second Foremeister. Approved unanimously.

VI. CORRESPONDENCE AND BILLS

A bill was presented of \$81.85 for publishing in the Journal Inquirer; Motion to approve Whitford. Second Genlot of \$81.85 to Journal Inquirer. Approved unanimously.

VII. MINUTES APPROVAL: October 1st/2014

Several corrections were noted.

Ms. Lise Wood 1st motion to Approve, followed by the 2nd Mr. Todd Whitford. All in favor, motion carried

VIII. ADJOURNMENT:

Motion to Adjourn Wood. Second Whitford. Meeting Adjourned 8:30 PM

Respectfully Submitted,
Janice Bergeron ó Recording Secretary