

**TOWN OF SOMERS**  
**Conservation Commission**  
**600 Main Street**  
**P.O. Box 308**

**REGULAR MEETING**  
**WEDNESDAY, May 6, 2015**  
**7:00 P.M. Town Hall**

**I. CALL TO ORDER:**

Chairman Joan Formeister called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Members present were: Joan Formeister; Greg Genlot; Hank Broer; Dan Fraro; Karl Walton and Wetlands Agent Dave Askew. Members absent were: Candace Aleks; Todd Whitford

**II. OLD BUSINESS:**

**1. Discussion/Decision: Application #683. 3 Bobolink Drive.** New septic system within upland review area associated with new home construction. Burzinski

The Commission reviewed what was discussed last month. David Askew has no issues with this application. The FEMA maps are in the process of being redone.

*Karl Walton made a motion to approve the installation of a new septic system within the upland review area associated with new home construction – Burzinski. This motion was seconded by Greg Genlot and unanimously approved by the Commission.*

**III. NEW BUSINESS:**

**1. Application#684. 329 Billings Road.** Grading/filling for pasture within wetland and stormwater discharge within upland review area. Fawn Hill Farm LLC.

John Gale, owner of the property, presented a preliminary plan that outlined what he wanted to do, as well as explaining existing conditions. He wants to remove stumps and bring fill into the wetland area in order to create a pasture for his horses. He said there are some sediment deposits from erosion during the winter, and standing water within portions of the wetland. Also, he needs to put in a drainage pipe in the upper portion of the property, which he proposes to discharge into the wetland.

Dave Askew said the wetland is too wet to become a pasture without significant modification, including fill. Also, Mr. Askew said that this is a substantial activity within a regulated resource. Dave would like to see

alternate methods to discharge stormwater. A direct discharge into the wetland will alter flow characteristics, could cause additional erosion, and has the potential to carry pollutants from fertilized areas of the property. Because fill is required to create conditions that will allow development of a pasture, it is not an exempt activity, under the permitted use of right for agriculture. Karl Walton said this wetland connects with a large wetland that includes Abby Brook.

Mr. Askew discussed possible alternative designs for the stormwater discharge. Alternatives could include construction of a swale/level spreader across the slope or discharging the water in several areas rather than being dumped directly into the wetland.

Joan Formeister asked if the Commission could see a revision of the plan that would protect the wetland. Mr. Gale asked whether all of the proposed activity is exempt as agricultural activity. Mr. Askew explained details of the "agricultural exemption", and the Commission determined that proposed activities within the wetland were not consistent with the exemption. The Commission determined that activities in the upland appeared to be consistent with the exemption and directed Mr. Gale to work with his engineer and surveyor, and Mr. Askew to work out appropriate solutions to the stormwater discharge, as this activity is limited to work in the upland review area.

Mr. Gale asked about what would be required to construct a pond in the wetland. Mr. Walton stated that any fill for the pond would require a permit. Mr. Askew recommended that monitoring wells be installed in the wetland and monitored through at least one year to determine if water levels are sufficient to support a pond. Mr. Askew also discussed permitting issues and noted that any impact over 5000 square feet would require ACOE permitting.

John Gale said he will get together with Sandy Aeschilman right away to see what can be done to work within the regulations. He pointed out the large area that has been seeded with blue grass and twelve inches of loam.

**IV. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION:**

There was none.

**V. STAFF REPORT:**

David Askew reviewed the Wetlands Agent's Report with the Commission.

*Greg Genlot made a motion to approve the Wetlands Agent Report, as presented. This motion was seconded by Dan Fraro and unanimously approved.*

**VI. CORRESPONDENCE AND BILLS:**

There was one bill from the Journal Inquirer that David forgot to bring with him.

*Dan Fraro made a motion to approve payment of the Journal Inquirer bill; seconded by Hank Broer and unanimously approved.*

**VII. MINUTES APPROVAL: April 1, 2015**

*Dan Fraro made a motion to approve the 4/1/15 minutes, as written. This motion was seconded by Karl Walton and unanimously approved.*

**VIII. ADJOURNMENT:**

*Motion to adjourn was made by Karl Walton, seconded by Hank Broer and unanimously approved. The meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.*

Respectfully submitted,

Candace Aleks, Secretary  
Connie Carengo, Recording Secretary

**MINUTES ARE NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL APPROVAL AT A SUBSEQUENT MEETING.**