

**TOWN OF SOMERS
Conservation Commission**

**600 Main Street
P. O. Box 308
Somers, Connecticut 06071**

**REGULAR MEETING
WEDNESDAY, July 1, 2015
7:00 p.m. Town Hall**

I. CALL TO ORDER:

Meeting called to order by Chairman Joan Formeister at 7:00 P.M.

Commissioners in attendance were Chairperson, Joan Formeister, Henry Broer, Karl Walton, Daniel Fraro, Greg Genlot, and Secretary, Candace Aleks. Also present was Joanna Shapiro, Wetland Agent.

II. OLD BUSINESS:

- 1. Application # 684 329 Billings Rd.** Grading/filling for pasture within wetland. Fawn Hill Farm LLC. – **APPLICATION WITHDRAWN** as of June 11, 2015.

No discussion.

III. NEW BUSINESS:

- 1. Jurisdictional Determination/Potential Application: Mountain View Road Open Space Corridor Trails.** Replacement of footbridge wetland crossings and stabilization of trails within upland review area. Town of Somers.

Todd Rolland, Town of Somers Public Works Director addressed the Commission. The Town proposes to rebuild and widen 2 wooden footbridges and construct some type of drainage system within a wet stretch of the trail to stabilize the soil composition so that horses can have a more solid and safer footing as they travel the trail.

Karl Walton made a motion to agree that this activity meets the wetland Regulation 211-4 Subsection B, a non-regulated use. Greg Genlot seconded. Joanna will inspect pre and post construction and will provide consultation. The motion was unanimously approved by the commission.

2. Violation/Modification of Permit #601. 19 Manse Hill Road. Fill in Upland Review Area for a Single Lot, House and Driveway and Septic System. Requesting to modify permit to maintain fill in wetland. Robert J. Chester

Mr. Robert Chester, owner, came before the Commission to explain that in the process of building his home he discovered he had filled and encroached on the wetland area on his property. He apologized to the Commission for the violation, has since tried to remove the fill and now proposes a plan developed by his environmental consultant to mitigate the wetland fill by removing phragmites in the wetland, and by planting an enhanced buffer planting behind the septic system. In so doing, he has requested to modify the existing wetland permit #601, 19 Manse Hill Rd.

The Commission members informed him that the lot was a problematic lot and that the Developer who sold him the land, as well as the environmental consultant employed by the developer, should also have informed him of the problems with the lot. Mr. Chester denied being informed about the problems with the lot. The Commission cautioned Mr. Chester to not encroach in the wetland area again.

Commissioner Walton made a motion to allow Mr. Chester to apply to modify existing wetlands permit #601, rather than submitting a new wetland permit application. This motion was seconded by Commissioner Fraro, and unanimously approved by the Commission.

Agent Shapiro explained that Mr. Chester had already submitted an application to modify the existing application. The commission discussed options to allow Mr. Chester and his family to move in to the house prior to the next regular meeting. Agent Shapiro explained that she would need an approved plan to compare against existing conditions in order to sign off on a CO. Next, Commissioner Fraro made a motion to accept the "AS BUILT" plan presented today (Plan dated June 23, 2015) as the modified plan for wetlands permit #601 for 19 Manse Hill Road, maintaining the original two conditions of approval, including the plantings of shrubs as proposed by the environmental consultant in the original permit as well as in the present application, to be planted prior to Mr. Chester's application for a Certificate of Occupancy, and also that the wetland area be permanently marked with the standard granite wetland posts and metal markers. Markers will be provided by the Town and Mr. Chester should consult again with Wetlands Agent Joanna Shapiro. Wetlands Agent Shapiro will inspect the marker posts and the plantings to confirm that Mr. Chester has completed the work appropriately. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Genlot, and unanimously approved by the Commission.

IV. IV. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION:

There was none.

V. V. STAFF/COMMISSION REPORT:

Wetlands Agent Shapiro distributed and discussed the Wetlands Agent Report.

Conservation Project money of \$300.00 from FY 2014-2015 was used to help purchase the SSURGO soils GIS layer and wall map. The adopted 2015-2016 Conservation Commission budget was presented.

Candace Aleks made a motion to accept the Wetlands Agent report. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Walton, and unanimously approved by the commission.

VI. CORRESPONDENCE AND BILLS

Ms. Shapiro presented correspondence from:

Connecticut DEEP's 2015 Training for Municipal Inland Wetland's Agencies (one voucher available for the online comprehensive commissioner training program) and the Connecticut Land Conservation Council.

No bills were submitted.

VII. MINUTES APPROVAL for June 3, 2015.

No Corrections. Commissioner Fraro made a motion to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Genlot, and unanimously approved by the commission.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn made by Commissioner Broer, seconded by Commissioner Aleks, and unanimously approved by the commission.
Meeting was adjourned at 9 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Candace Aleks, Secretary

MINUTES ARE NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL APPROVAL AT A SUBSEQUENT MEETING.