

**TOWN OF SOMERS  
Conservation Commission  
600 Main Street  
P.O Box 308  
Somers, CT 06071**

**REGULAR MEETING  
Wednesday, October 7, 2015  
7:00 p.m. Town Hall  
MINUTES**

**I. CALL TO ORDER:**

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Joan Formeister at 7:04 p.m. Members present were: Joan Formeister; Henry Broer; Todd Whitford; Greg Genlot. Also present was Wetland Agent Joanna Shapiro

**II. OLD BUSINESS:** There was none.

**III. NEW BUSINESS:**

**1. Application #685: Mountain Road Reconstruction:** Road reconstruction in Upland Review Area, Six Culvert Replacements within Watercourse. Town of Somers

Robert Newton of Benesch Corporation and Jeffrey Bord, Town Engineer of Land Use Dept. were both present to explain the project to the Commission. Rob Newton said funding for this project was passed by the Town of Somers in November of last year. He had several drawings with him and pointed out the wetland area where they would be working. Basically, the project concerns the reconstruction of six culverts on Mountain Road. The existing culverts are undersized for the flow that will be going through them. He presented an overview of the entire project covering 2.6 miles of roadway, showing the location of the six culverts. Four of the new culverts will be 3-sided with an open bottom – 26' wide. Each culvert will be constructed individually in order to minimize the detour impact on people living in the area. The total wetland impact is 4,552 sq. ft. (temporary), with 668 sq. ft. of permanent wetland disturbance. Mountain Road also needs a lot of repair. They will try to make the hill more gradual. The width of the road will remain the same and they will not add curbing. They will also improve the line of sight in certain areas.

Todd Whitford commented that the open bottom design would be fish-friendly where they could swim through the culvert area.

Joanna Shapiro had a few concerns. She asked for erosion control measures to be shown on the plan sheets, not just as typical measures. She also asked for final grading, stabilization, and permanent seeding be completed as each culvert is completed, rather than waiting until the end of the project, to better protect the adjacent wetlands and watercourse.

Finally, the lowest bidder on the project will not be used if the company is known to have caused problems when used in the past.

The application was received, and approval of this project may be granted at the next Conservation meeting.

**2. Potential New Application/violation/modification of Permit #601. 19 Manse Hill Road.**  
Deck within Upland Review Area. Robert J. Chester.

Mr. Chester's original wetland permit was modified in July to allow some filling of the wetland. The as-built was accepted as the modified plan and the Certificate of Occupancy was granted on July 9<sup>th</sup> of this year. Mr. Chester has since put in piers for a deck that was not shown on the as-built or on any previous site plan, without wetland approval. Mr. Chester stated that the four 12" footings are located at the crest of the property before it goes into the wetland. Mr. Chester submitted photos of the work that has been completed to date.

Mr. Chester was told by the Commissioners that after a C.O. is issued, any further work is a new issue and requires a new application which the Commission will accept and it will be taken up at the next meeting. Joanna Shapiro explained that Mr. Chester had already filled out the wetland permit application form, and it could therefore be received at this meeting, and considered at the following meeting, pending submission of the appropriate fee.

Joanna Shapiro does not believe that the deck itself would represent a significant impact to the wetland, especially considering that a portion of the wetland had already been filled during construction of the house, providing that proper erosion control measures were used during construction of the deck. However, the Commission should have been consulted about the deck before the building process was started.

*At this point. A motion was made by Greg Genlot, seconded by Todd Whitford, and unanimously approved by the Commission to take up Item #6 under New Business at this time. The last three items will be presented by the same person and Mr. Getman will not have to wait until these are discussed.*

**6. Jurisdictional Determination/Potential Application: School Street, Somersville Mill Pond, property adjoining 19 School Street.** Three-Season Floating Dock on bank of Watercourse. Stephen Getman.

Steve Getman said what he would like to do is put in a floating dock with two narrow pipes placed into the bank to secure the dock from floating away. It would be used for canoes and kayaks launching to avoid walking through muddy areas. The dock would be taken out during the winter months.

Joanna Shapiro said there is an exemption for recreational use, and that the dock is not a permanent installation, and she circulated the exemption language from the Inland Wetlands Regulations for the Commission to consider.

*Greg Genlot made a motion to consider this floating dock as a permitted use as of right that does not require a permit. Todd Whitford seconded the motion that was unanimously approved by the Commission.*

**3. Application #686: 471 Turnpike Road.** New House within Upland Review Area. Joann and Ryan Hemingway.

Rachel Dearborn, Licensed Land Surveyor, presented this application for the owners. This is on the west side of Turnpike Road. The owners want to reset the perimeters of the property to 40,000 square feet. The application is for a new house within the upland review area. The house would be 58' from the wetland, and the wetland would now be on a separate parcel. Joanna Shapiro asked about the limit of clearing and the installation of erosion control measures between the construction site and the wetland, particularly with respect to the proposed new well. Ms. Dearborn said that she could accommodate that request and adjust the plan for the next meeting. The area is very flat.

This application was received and can be approved at the next Conservation meeting.

**4. Application #687: 170 King Road.** New house, septic, grading, and two irrigation ponds within Upland Review Area. Patrick Dwyer.

Rachel Dearborn, Licensed Land Surveyor, presented this application for the owner. This property is at the north corner of the intersection of King Road and Watchaug Road and consists of 34-35 acres. There would be one house with a driveway. The owner wants two ponds on the property. They are both to be located immediately outside of the wetlands that abut the Scantic River, a very high-value resource. Rip-rap will be put in to allow overflow into the wetland area. Silt fence is shown on the plan, between the proposed ponds and the wetland. Joanna Shapiro asked about possible plantings along the edge of the ponds, as well as a shelf within the outer edge of the pond. Rachel Dearborn was not sure whether there would be any plantings around the ponds, and deferred that topic to the Environmental Consultant for the next meeting.

This application was received, and can be approved at the next Conservation meeting.

**5. Application #688: 88 King Road.** Fire Pond with Dry Hydrant and Recreation/Wildlife Pond in Upland Review Area. Brian Gallant.

Rachel Dearborn, Licensed Land Surveyor, presented this application for the owner. The Fire Department has required the owner to have water on the site to serve a dry hydrant. The other pond will be recreational. Rachel asked if both of these ponds can be within the conservation easement.

Joanna Shapiro referred to the prior wetland approval, which included a condition referencing two potential vernal pools, yet only one potential vernal pool is shown on this plan. Joanna Shapiro also asked about possible plantings along the edge of the ponds, as well as a shelf within the outer edge of the pond. Rachel Dearborn was not sure whether there would be any plantings around the ponds, and deferred that topic to the Environmental Consultant for the next meeting. Joanna Shapiro asked if a limit of clearing could be shown for the fire pond, and if the limit of clearing/proposed tree line could be tightened up around the recreational pond.

Chairman Joan Formeister expressed concern regarding the proximity of the recreational pond to the wetland, and whether the future landowner might alter the wetland area. Joanna Shapiro suggested the possibility of showing a limit of clearing surrounding the adjacent wetland lobe that is comprised mainly of shrubs rather than large trees, to prevent it from being cleared and altered.

Chairman Joan Formeister said that there may be more issues and concerns that the Commission may want to discuss with the Environmental Consultant, who was not present at tonight's meeting, and the Commission might need more than one additional meeting to review these issues.

**IV. Audience Participation:** There was none.

**V. Staff Report:**

Joanna Shapiro Reviewed her Wetland Agent's report with the Commission.

*Todd Whitford made a motion to approve the Wetland Agent's report; seconded by Henry Broer and unanimously approved by the Commission.*

**VI. Correspondence and Bills:**

Joanna Shapiro asked if we should renew our membership in CACIWC this year. The Commission agreed that we should.

*Greg Genlot made a motion to pay \$60.00 to renew our membership in CACIWC. This motion was seconded by Todd Whitford and unanimously approved by the Commission.*

**VII. Minutes Approval:** July 1, 2015

*Henry Broer made a motion to approve the July 1, 2015 minutes, as written. This motion was seconded by Todd Whitford and unanimously approved by the Commission.*

**VIII. Adjournment:**

*Motion to adjourn was made by Todd Whitford; seconded by Greg Genlot and unanimously approved by the Commission. The meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.*

Respectfully submitted,

Candace Aleks, Secretary

Connie Carenzo, Recording Secretary

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