

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

**REGULAR MEETING**  
**Wednesday, November 4, 2015**  
**7:00 p.m. Town Hall**  
**MINUTES**

**I. CALL TO ORDER:**

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 p.m. by Chairman Joan Formeister. Members present were: Joan Formeister; Todd Whitford, Karl Walton; Candace Aleks; Greg Genlot; Dan Fraro; Henry Broer; and Lise Wood (seated during the Staff Report through the end of the meeting for Todd Whitford). Also present was Joanna Shapiro, Wetlands Agent.

**II. OLD BUSINESS:**

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

Jeff Bord, Town Engineer for the Town of Somers, reviewed the updated plans with the Commission. He said erosion control measures are all in place and a silt fence will be constructed at each culvert location. Permanent stabilization will be done after each culvert is completed. Four of the six culverts will be 3-sided. Battle Street will be closed off during construction. Jeff explained the detours that will be in place. Each culvert will be done individually to minimize the detour impact on people living in the area. The dip in the road from Mountain Road onto Turnpike Road will be minimized. All issues of concern have been handled.

The project will be put out for bid for spring construction.

*Karl Walton made a motion to approve Application #685 now that all issues of concern have been incorporated into the plans. This motion has been seconded by Todd Whitford and unanimously approved by the Commission.*

2. **Discussion/Decision and Fee Waiver Request Application #689: 19 Manse Hill Road.** Deck within Upland Review Area. Robert J. Chester.

Robert Chester sent a letter to the Commission requesting that the permit fee for his deck be waived. After reviewing Mr. Chester's written request and the section of the Town of Somers Inland Wetland and Watercourses regulations that addresses fee waivers, and a discussion, the Commission decided the following:

*Karl Walton made a motion to deny the request to waive the permit fee for the deck, finding that the arguments presented in the letter did not address the criteria that must be met for a fee waiver. Seconded by Greg Genlot and unanimously approved by the Commission.*

Joan Formeister said that the Commission could approve this application after the fee of \$240 has been paid. Mr. Chester was present and wrote out the check to satisfy both the town and state fees, and gave it to the Commission.

*Karl Walton made a motion to approve Application #689 since the Wetland Application fee has been paid by the applicant, and much of the work on the deck had already been completed. This motion was seconded by Greg Genlot and unanimously approved by the commission.*

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

Mike Mocko, Environmental Consultant, along with Rachel Dearborn, Licensed Land Surveyor, updated the plan that Rachel presented to the Commission last month. The plan showed the addition of silt fence along the property boundary, as requested to protect the off-property wetland area. Mike explained that this application went to Planning last month for a reconfiguration. Originally, there were three parcels; now there are only two. One is for a new house that is 58' from the wetland and the other is a lot that contains a house that the landowner currently occupies.

*Todd Whitford made a motion to approve Wetland Application #686 now that erosion control measures are shown on the plan. This motion was seconded by Greg Genlot and unanimously approved by the Commission.*

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

Rachel Dearborn, Licensed Land Surveyor, added a silt fence and limit of disturbance to the plan along with a buffer of grass and basic native plantings around the ponds. This is a farm property of 30 acres. The ponds will be recreational and also to water the farm area. There is no other activity within 100' of the wetland area.

Mike Mocko said that in order to install a full basement, some fill will be needed to acquire the proper elevation. Mike explained how this would be done to avoid impact on any of the wetland areas. Joanna Shapiro stated that the revisions addressed her initial concerns regarding the plan.

*Todd Whitford made a motion to approve Wetland Application #687; seconded by Karl Walton. Karl asked Mike if this parcel has already been subdivided and Mike Mocko said yes, originally there were four parcels. The property could have two building lots. However, the water table was currently too high to support four building lots. The motion was unanimously approved by the Commission.*

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

Rachel Dearborn remarked that this is already an approved subdivision.

Mike Mocko said that based on the last review, they have placed some protection around the fire pond and defined the limits of clearing to 15-20' around the pond. They are now proposing a safety shelf inside the pond. Landscaping around the pond would include tree clearing and a buffer of native shrubs. They have also included some aquatic plantings to enhance the beauty and wildlife function of the pond. All of the disturbed areas will be protected with soil erosion methods. Regarding the recreational pond, the revised plans depict the pond further away from the wetlands. This plan will preserve much of the existing tree line. The fire pond is within the conservation easement. The easement language will include an allowance for the fire department to inspect the piping to prevent clogging, and to maintain the pond.

Dan Fraro asked who is responsible for maintaining these ponds. Mike Mocko said that no stream will be emptying into these ponds and it would be 50 to 100 years before these ponds need cleaning.

The potential vernal pool is 60' away from the proposed fire pond. Mike Mocko stated that there would still be adequate shading of the pool, but said that it is likely not a pool for salamander breeding. The water is not there long enough during the breeding season.

Karl Walton asked how this came to be a dry hydrant site. Mike said the Fire Department required the owner to have water on the site to serve a dry hydrant. All of this activity is within the 100' buffer zone. The fire pond is 80' by 80'.

Joanna Shapiro said her concerns have been taken care of; the pond has been moved back from the wetland; the plantings have been added; and noted that the commission should consider whether to allow the fire pond within the conservation easement.

*Greg Genlot made a motion to approve Wetlands Application #688; seconded by Karl Walton and unanimously approved by the Commission.*

### **III. NEW BUSINESS:**

#### **1. Approval of Proposed 2016 Meeting Dates**

*Karl Walton made a motion to approve the proposed 2016 meeting dates, seconded by Candace Aleks and unanimously approved by the Commission.*

#### **2. 994 Main Street:**

David Worthington is proposing a logging operation that will include two temporary wetland crossings. The crossings will be removed after the logging is completed. This involves about 50 acres. There will be no skid trails within the steepest areas and no wetland area will be clear cut.

It was the consensus of the Commission that this is an agricultural use as of right. However, the Commission will have wetland agent Joanna Shapiro monitor the activity.

### **IV. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION: There was none.**

### **V. STAFF REPORT:**

Joanna Shapiro presented her Wetland Agent's report to the Commission. The following comments were made:

Regarding the Durkee Road 7-lot subdivision, the applicant will have to come in for a wetlands permit unless he manages to revise the plan sufficiently to stay out of the Upland Review Area, as the original subdivision approval involved no regulated activity on that lot.

Lise Wood was seated for Todd Whitford who had to leave the meeting at 8:30

Also, regarding 56 Egypt Road – Four Town Fairgrounds request to install two truck pull pads, the Commission needs to see their plans for this project, and will require a permit for activities within the 100 foot upland review area.

*Karl Walton made a motion to approve the Wetland Agent's report; seconded by Lise Wood and unanimously approved by the Commission.*

**VI. CORRESPONDENCE AND BILLS:**

Joanna Shapiro explained an opportunity for commission members to attend a free training session that will be given in Somers for local land use commissioners, and gave the brochure to Chairman Formeister in case commission members want to attend. She will update the commission once a date is selected for the training session.

There were no bills.

**VII. MINUTES APPROVAL:    October 7, 2015**

*Greg Genlot made a motion to approve the 10/7/15 minutes, as written. This motion was seconded by Henry Broer and unanimously approved by the Commission.*

**VIII. ADJOURNMENT:**

*Karl Walton made a motion to adjourn; seconded by Lise Wood and unanimously approved by the Commission. The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 p.m.*

Respectfully submitted,

Candace Aleks, Secretary

Connie Carenzo, Recording Secretary

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