

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

REGULAR MEETING
Wednesday, December 2, 2015
7:00 p.m. Town Hall
MINUTES

I. **CALL TO ORDER:**

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 by Chairman Joan Formeister. Those present were: Henry Broer; Dan Fraro; Greg Genlot; Candace Aleks; Joan Formeister and Wetlands Agent Joanna Shapiro. Karl Walton and Todd Whitford were absent.

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

III. **NEW BUSINESS**

- 1. Application #690: 56 Egypt Road (Four Town Fair)** Two truck pull pads and widen access road within a wetland and upland review area. Janice Steinmetz And George VanTasel

George VanTasel presented a brief history of the Four Town Fairgrounds. He said this application is being made because of a safety concern. People have been nearly run over by loaders because the trucks can not make the turn into the area that is reserved for them. They have tried to schedule people coming in or going out without much success.

Joanna gave some background information about previous activity and wetland permits granted in this area of the property. Much of the area in question falls within a 1-acre area in which filling had been previously approved, but was only partially completed, and that permit had since expired.

Candace asked if a professional opinion has been sought to evaluate the situation. This has not been done.

George VanTasel is also proposing to install two truck pull pads in the upland review area, in an attempt to increase fair attendance, and said that even with four days of great weather, the fair attendance was down 1,000 people last year. The approval of this application is necessary to the future of the fair. Without the animals, attendance will take a downward spiral. Some have refused to come back unless something is done to widen the road into their assigned area.

Joanna said that a permit was granted in the past (now expired) to fill in much of the area in question. Not all of the filling was completed at that time, and much of the area would likely still be considered a wetland today based on the soils present. In addition, a portion of the activity now being proposed would extend beyond the original permitted area of fill. Joanna said that this wetland area is on the edge of a large, high value wetland, a riparian area for Abbey Brook, yet the commission would have to determine if this relatively small area represents a significant activity, and whether they would want an expert to determine the functions and values of the wetland area. Two commission members expressed interest in viewing the site to gain a better understanding of the proposed activity, and would do so outside of a meeting, yet would not have a quorum of the commission on the site at once.

George said that there is a swale that runs around the red building into the wetlands which would be filled and levelled. George said their plan is to divert any excess water to feed back into the wetlands. George said the plan is to do a loop around the red building to allow the large trucks with animals to make the turn safely. George said that all proposed activity is quite a distance from Abbey Brook.

Joanna explained that the approximately 4" of soil that they are proposing to strip off of the existing lawn area for the pull pads will be replaced, and the grading in the area of the pull pads will largely remain the same. This area is in the upland review area. She noted that we have not yet discussed soil erosion control and the need for a silt fence, which would have to be added to the plan.

George said they will use as little of the wetland as possible. This would be started in March or April of next year. A lot of this drainage goes into Egypt Road.

Joanna said they need more details on the project – such as the location of a silt fence and she told George the things that would be needed on the plan. She suggested possibly breaking the project out into two phases if it was unlikely that the full extent of the project would be constructed at once. George said that he's been working on staking out the area of the operation, and that he would add any requested details to the plan.

2. Request for Permit Extension of Wetland Permit #559: 96 White Oak Road (formerly 99 White Oak Road). Driveway crossing a wetland and wetland mitigation within Upland Review Area for a new house. Helder Nunes

Joanna Shapiro said this permit is valid until 12/30/15. Helder Nunes recently purchased the property, and it was not initially clear whether the wetlands mitigation was completed when the driveway wetland crossing was completed years ago. It appears that none of this mitigation work was done by the original owner and developer. The mitigation area is in the upland review area, and is therefore a regulated activity.

Conservation Minutes

12/2/15

Page 3

The new owner wants to extend the wetlands permit so that he can complete the mitigation area next year. The house itself is outside of the Upland Review Area, yet a certificate of occupancy for the house will not be granted until the wetland mitigation is completed.

The Commission talked about the seasonal pool that is supposed to be included in the wetlands mitigation area.

Dan Fraro made a motion to extend Wetland Permit #559 for one year from December 30, 2015 in order to accomplish the wetland mitigation required by the original permit. This motion was seconded by Candace Aleks and unanimously approved by the Commission.

IV. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION - There was none.

V. STAFF REPORT

Joanna Shapiro went over her Wetland Agent Report with the Commission. Highlights were: 216 Durkee Road – No wetland permit is required. 216 Stafford Road – The wetland permit is still valid.

Dan Fraro made a motion to approve the Wetland Agent's Report; seconded by Candace Aleks and unanimously approved by the Commission.

VI. CORRESPONDENCE AND BILLS;

Joanna Shapiro distributed a copy of Habitat and Connecticut Wildlife for their perusal.

VII. MINUTES APPRIVAL November 4, 2015

Dan Fraro made a motion to approve the November 4, 2015 minutes. This motion was seconded by Henry Broer and unanimously approved by the Commission.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT;

Dan Fraro made a motion to adjourn; seconded by Candace Aleks and unanimously approved by the Commission. The meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Candace Aleks, Secretary
Connie Carenzo, Recording Secretary

MINUTES ARE NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL APPROVAL AT A SUBSEQUENT MEETING.