



Town of Somers Conservation Commission Inland Wetlands & Watercourses Application

Revised Effective 10/7/2020

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

Property Owner's Information

Name: Somers Mountain Properties, LLC
 Mailing Address: 349 Mountain Rd

Application # _____
 Date Submitted _____
 Fee Collected _____
 Date of CC Receipt _____

WHEN NOT REQUIRED BY LAW TO MAIL NOTICE BY USPS, MAY NOTICES BE EMAILED TO YOU? Yes No
 Email: monke@worthington.wine Primary Contact Phone #: 413-519-7709

By signing below I certify that all information submitted with this application is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge, that I am aware of and understand the application requirements and regulations, that all work will be completed in accordance with approved plans, and acknowledge that the application is to be considered complete only when all information and documents required by the Commission have been submitted. Moreover, by signing above I/we expressly provide written consent to the filing of the application and access to the site by the Commission and its staff and hired professionals to walk and inspect the property and perform those tests necessary to properly review the application and monitor site work until the permitted activity is completed.

Owner's Signature: [Signature] Date: 8/17/23

Applicant's Information (if different than owner)

Name: Town of Somers - Fire Dept
 Mailing Address: 400 Main St, Somers, CT 06071

WHEN NOT REQUIRED BY LAW TO MAIL NOTICE BY USPS, MAY NOTICES BE EMAILED TO YOU? Yes No
 Email: jfoac@somers.ct.gov Primary Contact Phone #: 860-749-7026

By signing below I certify that all information submitted with this application is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge, that I am aware of and understand the application requirements and regulations, that all work will be completed in accordance with approved plans, and acknowledge that the application is to be considered complete only when all information and documents required by the Commission have been submitted.

Applicant's Signature: [Signature] Date: 8/17/23

Property Information

Street Address: 359 Mountain Rd Size of Property (acres): _____

Total area of wetlands/watercourses on parcel in square feet or acres: _____

Proposed disturbance or alteration to wetlands/watercourses (square feet & linear feet.): 2' x 30'

Proposed disturbance within Upland Review Area (square feet, within 100' of wetland or watercourse): _____

Proposed area of wetlands/watercourses to be restored, enhanced, or created (square feet or acres): _____

Is the property served by: Public Water: Yes No* Public Sewer: Yes No*

**If not served by public water and/or sewer, applicant shall make application to Somers Health Department if required.*

Is there a Conservation Restriction or Preservation Restriction on the property? Yes* No **If Yes, please attach evidence that adequate notice was provided to holder of restriction or letter from holder verifying that application is in compliance (CGS 47-42a,b,c)*

Application Information – Please refer to § 211-19 for Application Fee schedule, in addition to state land use fee.

Type of Project: (check one)

Residential Commercial/Industrial Mixed Use Forestry Agricultural Other: Public Safety

Type of Application: (check one)

Wetland Permit Minimal Impact Permit¹ Jurisdictional Ruling² Permit Modification³ Permit Extension³

¹Limited to appurtenant, at-grade structures <500 square feet and ≥25 feet from wetland/watercourse. See § 211-12 for more information.

²See § 211-4 for details regarding permitted uses as of right and nonregulated uses. Sufficient info must be provided for the Commission to make a ruling.

³Existing permit must be valid for ≥65 days after the date submitted. See § 211-71 for further instructions.

Project Narrative *Please attach reports and supporting documentation as necessary.* Additional Info Attached? Yes No

1. Describe the nature and purpose of proposed regulated activity, request for acceptance of a permitted use as of right or a nonregulated use, map or regulation amendment, or other activity requiring review by the Commission or its Agent:

Install dry hydrant

2. Describe how the proposed activity affects wetlands, watercourses, and the regulated areas. Describe the nature of the affected resources, including their function, and list any wetlands of special interest (vernal pool, marsh, bog, etc.) :

maintain - install PVC pipe into pond

3. Describe measures that will be taken to minimize the impact on wetlands, watercourses and the regulated areas, including proposed erosion and sedimentation controls and other management practices or mitigation measures:

install completed in 1 day, area re-seeded

4. Describe alternatives considered and why activity proposed in application was chosen as preferred alternative:

N/A

Applicant shall provide certification in accordance with Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Regulations, § 211-7G:

- Whether or not any portion of the property on which the regulated activity is proposed is located within 500 feet of an adjoining town. Yes No
- Whether or not a significant portion of the traffic to the completed project will use streets within an adjoining town to exit or enter the site. Yes No
- Whether or not a significant portion of the sewer or water drainage from the project will flow through and significantly impact the sewer or water drainage system of an adjoining town. Yes No
- Whether water run-off from the improved site will impact streets or other municipal/private property within an adjoining town. Yes No

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If YES to any of the above, the Commission shall, in accordance with CGS 8-7d(f) and IWWR 211-8C, notify the clerk of any adjoining municipality of the pendency of any application, petition, appeal, request or plan concerning any project on any site. Notice of the pendency of such application shall be made by certified mail, return receipt requested, and shall be mailed within seven (7) days of the date of receipt of the application, petition, appeal, request or plan. (See § 211-8C)

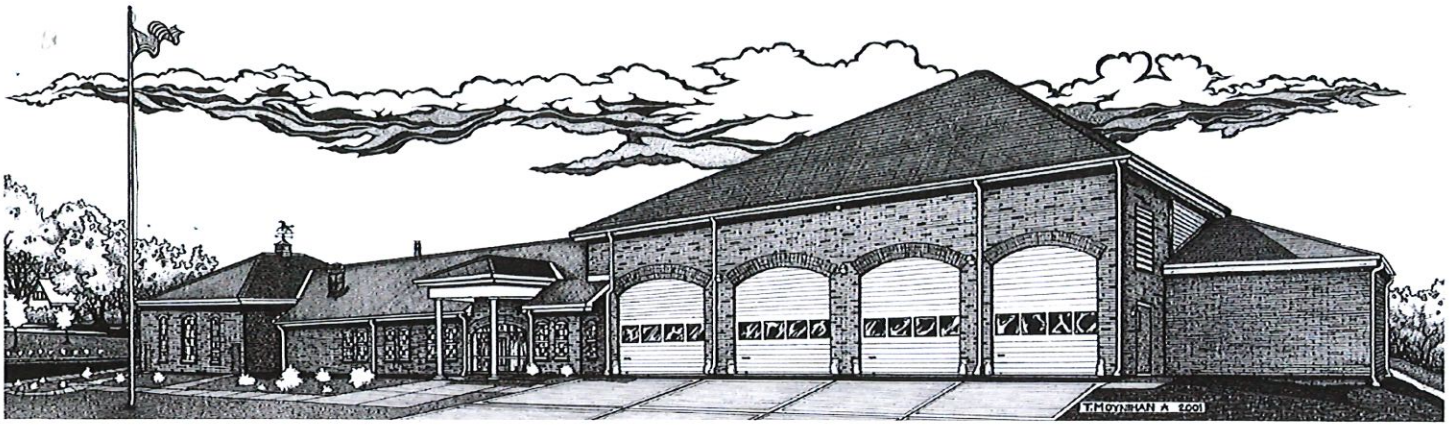
Is any portion of wetland/watercourse within 500' of the boundary of another municipality? Yes* No

**If yes, the applicant shall give written notice of application by certified mail, return receipt requested, on the same day to the Inland Wetlands Commission of other municipality. Proof must be provided to Wetland Agent. See § 211-8*

Site Plan Requirements (See § 211-7E) – 2 hard copies and an electronic copy required with application

- Scale of 1" = 20' to 1" = 100', or other scale as appropriate considering the proposal
- Show the proposed activity and existing and proposed conditions in relation to wetlands and watercourses and Upland Review Area.
- For Wetland Permit – field-delineated wetland boundaries with wetland flag numbers/locations and soil scientist's signature on plan.
- Clearing limits/limit of disturbance, property lines, existing and proposed topography, proposed drainage, proposed erosion controls.
- Identify any further activities associated with, or reasonably related to, the proposed regulated activity which are made inevitable by the proposed regulated activity and which may have an impact on wetlands or watercourses.
- Diagram of alternatives considered by the applicant

PLEASE NOTE: If the Conservation Commission determines, based upon its review of the initial submittal, that either the proposed activity involves a significant activity, or additional technical or other information is necessary in order to properly and fully evaluate the proposed activity, any or all of the additional information listed in § 211-7F of the IWWA Regulations may be required in addition to this application and general site plan requirements. The Commission may additionally determine that the application warrants a complex application fee to be paid by the applicant to allow review by third party expert(s) with the appropriate expertise, pursuant to Town Ordinance (see § 114-7, 8, 9, 10).



July 18, 2023

To: Joanna Shapiro – Somers Wetlands and Erosion Control

From: John Roache – Chief, Somers Fire Dept.

(A)

Re: Dry Hydrant Installation – Worthington Pond

The Somers Fire Department would like to formally apply for permission to install a dry hydrant in the pond at 359 Mountain Road, Somers. This is the smaller pond in front of the Tasting House at Worthington Pond Vineyard. We are working in partnership with the property owner, Mr. Mark Murdoch

This will basically be a static pipe installed from the center of the pond to the edge of the pavement, which the fire department will strictly use to provide rapid access to a water source for firefighting operations.

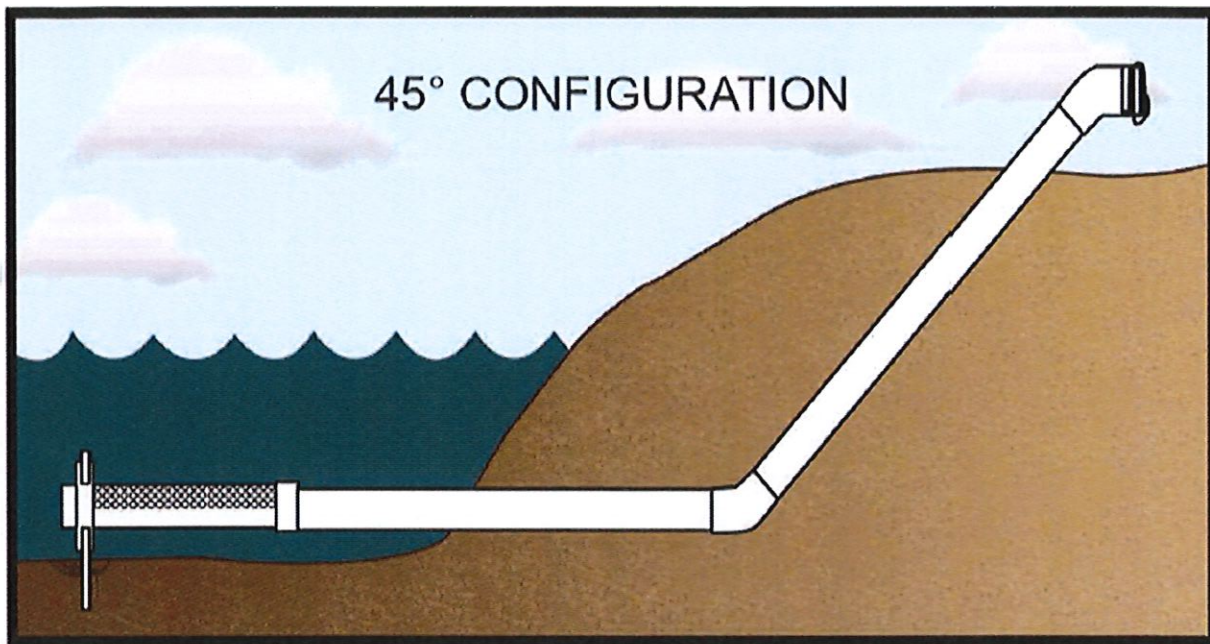
Below is a map of the site from Google – the red circle is the proposed dry hydrant location:



We intend to install the pipe from the pond's center to the edge of the driveway so that we can access the water year-round.



Draft sketch of the dry hydrant piping:



For this specific installation:

- There will be a strainer to minimize debris and fish from entering the end of the pipe
- The lower horizontal run will be approximately 30' of 8" PVC pipe
- This will connect to a 45-degree elbow/reducer
- The riser will be an 8' piece of 6" PVC
- At the end, we will install a 45-degree connector and cap for FD use

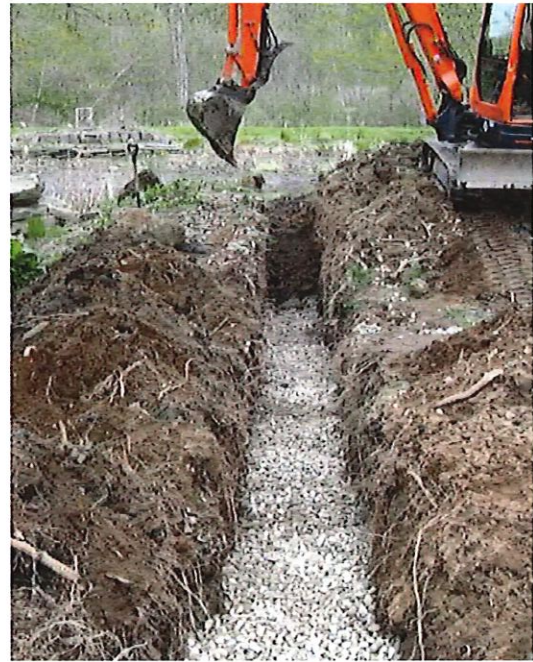
This is a mock setup of the piping (the darker paint on the column would be the water line.)



Somers Fire Department members will work with DPW to complete the actual installation.

- Start to finish typically takes 4 hours
- The trench is dug with the narrowest bucket they have - typically 18" wide
- The bottom of the trench is a few inches below the frost line and slopes back toward the pond.
- The bottom of the trench is then lined with 2" of crushed stone
- The pipe is laid in
- The pipe is then covered in crushed stone, just so that the pipe is covered
- Then the dirt originally removed from the trench is then put back (never leaves the site)
- Area is graded, seeded, and covered with hay

Pictures of a typical installation:



Some other general background information:

A) What is a dry hydrant, and why do we need them?

- Not all areas of Somers have city water, which includes access to actual fire hydrants. So in other parts of town, if there is a fire, we either need to truck water in or utilize a natural water source such as a pond or river.
- A typical fire engine today pumps 1,500 gallons per minute – so we need access to a lot of water. Even our largest tanker truck only carries 3,000 gallons – so that only gives us a 2-minute supply. Having pre-designated filling points around town greatly helps us get water when we need it.
- The dry hydrant is nothing more than a big “straw”. The fire trucks can produce a vacuum and literally suck the water from the pond.
- Due to space limitations on the truck, they can only carry 20’ to 30’ of hard suction – or drafting hose. That means the truck (weighing 35,000+ pounds) needs to be fairly close to the water source. Often the trucks can’t get close enough to the pond when it is muddy or if there is snow on the ground. In the winter, we also have to deal with ice on top. The dry hydrants help bring the water from the pond's center (below the ice and where it is deeper) to the edge of the road.

B) If there is a fire, will we drain the pond?

- Not likely. Even though we utilize about 1,500 gallons per minute, a smaller pond such as this one has several million gallons of water. A typical fire that uses 25,000 to 30,000 gallons of water may drop the level of the pond a few inches.

C) We have been asked in the past if there should be a backflow preventer.

- No, they are not feasible. For one, we need to be able to pump some water back down the line to flush the strainer at the far end should it get clogged. It is not uncommon to suck leaves against the strainer, and a quick back flush removes them.
- Next, we purposely want these devices to be simple and reliable. There are no moving parts – it is basically a straight pipe.
- Finally, given the fact it will be exposed to freezing temperatures, we need to ensure that the pipe has a way to drain back into the pond once we are done using it.

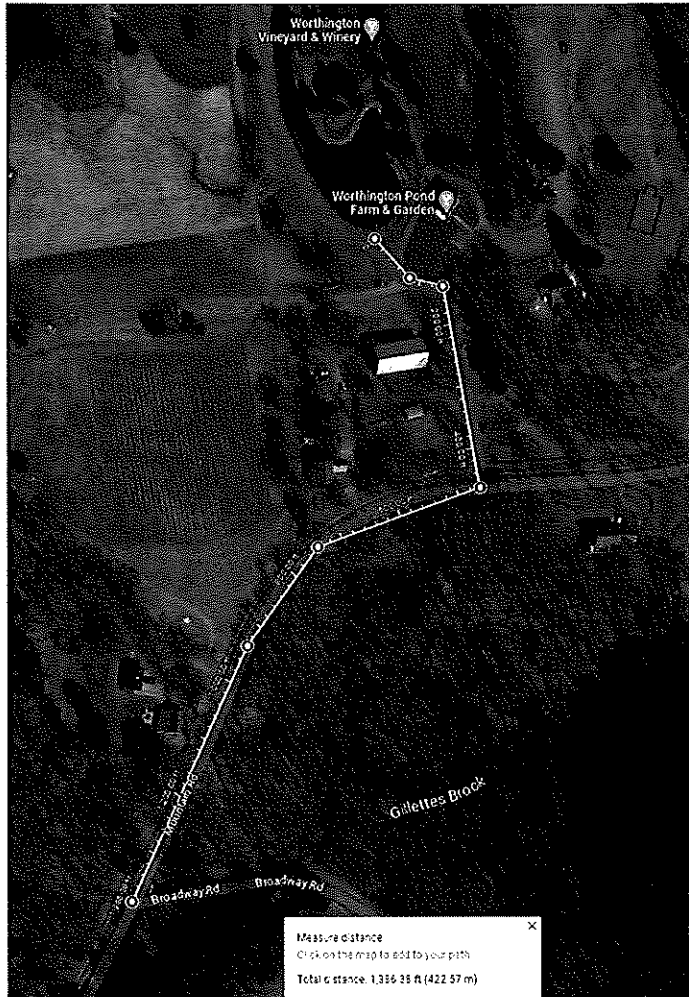
D) Are there any state regulations specifically regarding installing dry hydrants?

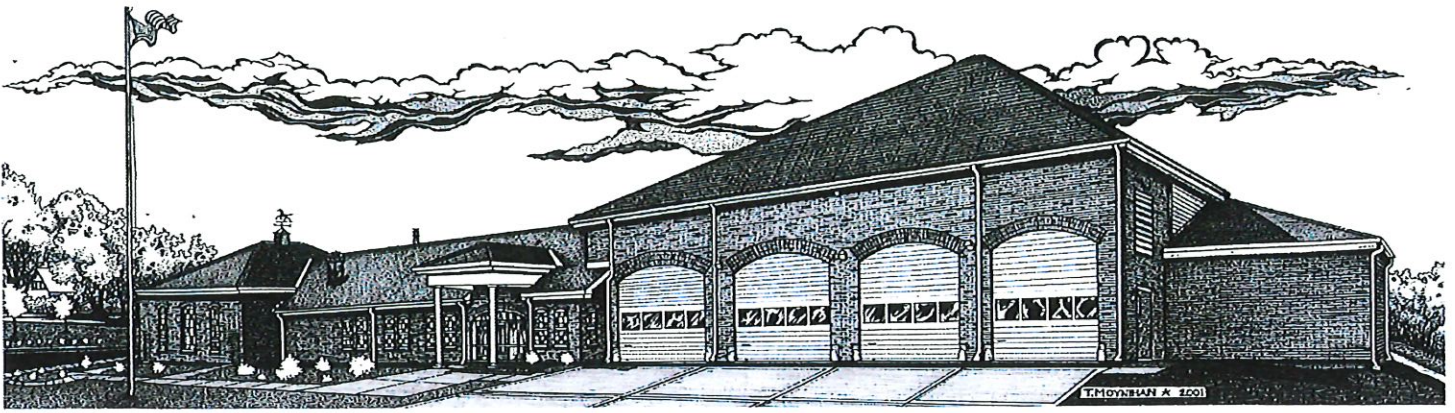
- Yes – Public Act 11-184 updated the Wetland statute to allow for dry hydrants for fire suppression as an exempt activity. We still need to notify the Conservation Commission about the installation, but it was handled as a Jurisdictional Ruling in the past. It was determined that it is a nonregulated use as-of-right and does not require a wetland permit.

What areas will this protect:

The Somers Fire Department carries 1,500' of large diameter supply hose on our fire engines.

So this would effectively provide coverage on Mountain Road from Broadway to Camp Road.





Dry Hydrant Agreement

The Somers Fire Department (SFD) is hereby authorized to develop a refill site at 359 Mountain Road, in the Town of Somers, for the purpose of providing water to extinguish fires in the community.

I further give SFD permission to install a dry hydrant at this location. It is agreed that SFD will be responsible for all required materials. SFD will also be responsible for all excavation work and agrees that the site will be properly graded and seeded once the installation is complete.

SFD agrees to follow all state and local requirements regarding dry hydrant installations and will be responsible for any permits or approvals.

Permission is granted for SFD to use this dry hydrant anytime there is an emergency. In addition, it is understood that SFD may need to routinely test the dry hydrant to ensure continuity of operations. SFD will be responsible for all maintenance of this installation.

Both parties understand that this agreement will remain in force until such time as the property owner submits a written letter to SFD terminating this agreement.

The complete operation of the dry hydrant, along with the installation process has been fully explained to me, and I concur with all parts of this agreement.

Signed: *Mark Murdoch* Print: Mark Murdoch Date: 7-19-23
(Property Owner)

Signed: *John Roache* Print: John Roache Date: 7/19/23
(Somers Fire Chief)

SOMERS FIRE DEPARTMENT

Fire ★ Rescue ★ EMS

400 Main St., Somers, CT 06071
Phone (860)749-7626 • Fax (860)763-8233
WEB: WWW.SOMERSFIRE.ORG