

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

**REGULAR MEETING  
Wednesday, December 7, 2016  
7:00 p.m. Town Hall**

**MINUTES**

**I. CALL TO ORDER:**

Chairman Joan Formeister called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. Commission members in attendance were Chairperson Joan Formeister, Henry Broer, Daniel Fraro, and Alternate Lise Wood, seated for Karl Walton. Joanna Shapiro, Wetland Agent, was in attendance.

**II. OLD BUSINESS:**

None

**III. NEW BUSINESS:**

1. **Jurisdictional Determination:** 135 Bilton Road. Dredging/restoration of a farm pond. Jim Shewokis.

Mr. Shewokis was present and explained that he lives at 61 White Oak Road and owns the farmland at 135 Bilton Road. He presented property maps and identified the irrigation ponds that he would like to dredge accumulated sediment from to improve their necessary irrigation use, and also to improve habitat value for aquatic life. Mr. Shewokis explained that he would use the dredged materials on the upland farmed areas of his property. Mr. Shewokis estimated that the old irrigation ponds have filled in approximately 6 feet over the years. Ms. Shapiro reviewed the agricultural exemption language from the wetland regulations, and Ms. Formeister confirmed with Mr. Shewokis that the ponds that he wishes to dredge are less than 3 acres in size, the limitation of the exemption.

*Lise Wood made a motion that this is a permitted use “as of right” farming activity. Henry Broer seconded, motion carried by unanimous vote.*

2. **Jurisdictional Determination:** 743 Hall Hill Road. Construction of a horse barn in the upland review area. John and Lynn Papale.

Ms. Shapiro presented on behalf of the applicant, who wishes to construct a horse barn adjacent to a stream. Project plans depicted the location of the proposed barn and stream, as well as silt fence to prevent sedimentation of the stream. Ms. Shapiro distributed copies of the agricultural exemption language from the wetland regulations, as well as the definition of “farming” from the state statutes.

*Lise Wood made a motion that this is a permitted use “as of right” farming activity. Daniel Fraro seconded, motion carried by unanimous vote.*

3. **Jurisdictional Determination:** 40 Kibbe Grove Road. Stabilization and armoring of an eroded channel with associated drainage improvements in the upland review area. Town of Somers.

Ms. Shapiro presented plans on behalf of the town Public Works department to correct an erosion issue that is impacting the town right-of-way as well as private property. Project plans from the Town Engineer depicted the proposed drainage improvements along Schneider Road, including the extension of an existing culvert and regrading and armoring of an eroded channel that drains directly to the Scantic River. Ms. Shapiro explained that the intent is to stop the erosion that is currently contributing sediment to the adjacent wetland and to the Scantic River. Ms. Shapiro referenced section 211-4(B)(1) of the wetland regulations, which allows for “conservation of soil” including “minor work to control erosion” as a nonregulated use, with some exclusions. Commission members discussed the extent and nature of the proposed work in the upland review area.

*Daniel Fraro made a motion that this activity is permitted as a nonregulated soil conservation use. Lise Wood seconded, motion carried by unanimous vote.*

4. **Request for Extension of Wetland Permit #643 (wetland permit expires February 1, 2017):** 35 Therese Drive. Construction of new single family residence, driveway, and septic in the upland review area. Fran and Danny Hinckley.

Mr. Hinckley was present to explain his request to extend the wetland permit, and Ms. Shapiro also presented the required written request. Mr. Hinckley expressed that while the work could feasibly be completed in a year, he would prefer more time if possible. Ms. Shapiro explained that the maximum length of this permit, issued after July 1, 2011 and therefore not subject to the legislative extension, could be 10 years total, which would reflect a 5 year extension, after which no further extensions could be granted, except in the event of legislative action.

*Daniel Fraro made a motion to grant an extension of Wetland Permit #643 for five years from its original expiration date, to February 1, 2022. This motion was seconded by Henry Broer and unanimously approved by the Commission.*

**5. Approval of Proposed 2017 Meeting Dates**

The Commission reviewed the draft dates for conflicts with holidays.

*Lise Wood made a motion to approve the proposed 2016 meeting dates, seconded by Daniel Fraro and unanimously approved by the Commission.*

**IV. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION –**

None

**V. STAFF/COMMISSION REPORT**

Ms. Shapiro distributed and discussed the Wetland's Agent Report. The Commission discussed a possible violation observed at 1027 Main Street and directed Ms. Shapiro to send an initial letter requesting cooperation from the landowner. By consensus, the Commission also agreed that remediation completed at 329 Billings Rd. was sufficient to issue a Certificate of Occupancy.

*Henry Broer made a motion to accept the Wetland's Agent report, seconded by Dan Fraro, and unanimously approved by the Commission.*

**VI. CORRESPONDENCE AND BILLS**

Ms. Shapiro presented correspondence, including copies of the fall edition of the Habitat. Ms. Shapiro also presented two Journal Inquirer bills. Lise Wood made a motion to approve current bills, Dan Fraro seconded, and unanimously approved by the Commission.

**VII. MINUTES APPROVAL**

The Commission discussed a suggested edit to the minutes of November 2, 2016, but none of those present were in favor of the change. Lise Wood made a motion to approve the November 2, 2016 minutes as presented, Dan Fraro seconded, and unanimously approved by the Commission. Lise Wood made a motion to approve the November 16, 2016 special meeting minutes as presented, Dan Fraro seconded, and unanimously approved by the Commission.

**VIII. ADJOURNMENT:**

Commissioner Henry Broer made the motion to adjourn, Lise Wood seconded, unanimously approved by the Commission. Meeting was adjourned at 8:05 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Joanna Shapiro, Wetland Agent

MINUTES ARE NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL APPROVAL AT A SUBSEQUENT MEETING