

TOWN OF SOMERS

Conservation Commission

600 Main Street

P.O. Box 308

REGULAR MEETING

WEDNESDAY, April 5, 2017

7:00 PM TOWN HALL

MINUTES

I. CALL TO ORDER- Meeting called to order by Greg Genlot at 7:00 P.M.

Commissioners in attendance were Henry Broer, Daniel Fraro, Candace Aleks and Lise Wood, sitting in for Karl Walton. Chairman Joan Formeister arrived at 7:10 p.m. Also present was Joanna Shapiro, Wetland Agent.

II. OLD BUSINESS – None

III. NEW BUSINESS –

1. **Jurisdictional Determination: 164 Hampden Rd.** Installation of a dry hydrant within a pond to serve as a water source for Town firefighting operations. Town of Somers.

Fire Chief John Roache explained to the Commission that it was necessary to install a dry hydrant to assist in the filling of the fire trucks from the pond. He had submitted a written request with a detailed explanation of the activity. He also stated that he had written permission from the land owner to install the hydrant. They will dig a trench, install piping, refill the trench and reseed. The process should take one day. Wetland Agent Shapiro explained that by state statute, this installation is a non-regulated use in a wetland or watercourse. Chief Roache inquired whether consultation with the Commission is required if repairs to existing dry hydrants are needed. Commissioner Lise Wood requested that the Fire Chief give Wetland Agent Shapiro a courtesy call if repairs are needed in the future in any other locations, which other Commissioners agreed with. The consensus of the Commission was that a formal jurisdictional determination would not be needed for future repairs. By consensus, the Commission determined that the installation of this dry hydrant is permitted as a nonregulated use, and does not require a wetland permit.

2. **Application #709. 37 Shady Dell Lane.** Construction of an above-ground pool in the upland review area. Christophe A. Huestis

Mr. Huestis presented photos to explain the installation of an above-ground pool that would be placed 40 feet from the wetland, and outside the 25-foot Conservation Easement. He explained that will not be using chlorinated water to fill his pool. The Commission discussed potentially holding a special meeting to vote on this application, yet explained that by state statute, the application cannot be acted on until their next meeting.

3. **Application # 707. 40 Maple St.** Site remediation, including demolition and removal of existing mill ruins and grading in the upland review area; removal of debris, building decks, and concrete piers and replacement of bulkhead walls within the Scantic River. Town of Somers.

Mr. Barry Giroux of G.E.I. Consultants presented plans for remediation of the old mill site on Maple Street, being completed as part of a brownfields remediation grant from the State of Connecticut. He submitted a complete report with extensive plans for the process that will be followed. He described the demolition and remediation that will occur, including demolition of building decks and concrete piers that span the river, removal of bricks and other debris that had fallen into the river since the fire that destroyed the mill, and the replacement of bulkhead walls along the Scantic River. Mr. Giroux explained the method of temporary water diversion selected for construction, including the use of pipes and a sand bag dam to convey flows downstream and maintain a dry stream bed for completion of the stream remediation and wall replacement, and contingency plans for large rain events. Mr. Giroux described the erosion and sedimentation control measures that will be used to protect the Scantic River downstream of the site.

Commission members inquired about the grading plan and final results being proposed adjacent to the river, and Mr. Giroux explained the grading plan, and identified the proposed area for flood storage on one side of the river, with the other side being sheltered from flooding to allow for future redevelopment. Wetland Agent Shapiro explained that while most of the wetland impacts being proposed are temporary, to remove debris and restore the streambed, the submitted report explains that federal wetlands, formed when sediment accumulated and vegetation grew on bricks and other debris within the channel, will be impacted as the stream channel is restored. Wetland Agent Shapiro distributed photos of the area that she had taken during a recent site visit. Mr. Giroux explained that the applicant is simultaneously applying for a permit from the US Army Corps of Engineers for this project.

4. **Application #708: 1005 Main Street.** 1005 Main Street. Resubdivision to create an additional building lot and construction of two single family homes with detached garages. Grading, drainage, and construction of a septic system in the upland review area. Pawel Bujnowski.

Tim Coon, from J.R. Russo & Associates presented plans to divide the lot so that two homes can be built. There will be no direct impact to the wetlands. Wetland Agent Shapiro explained that a thorough review of the Erosion and Sedimentation Control Plan will be completed for the Planning Commission public hearing. She distributed photos that she had taken of the site, and explained that the activities proposed within the upland review area are limited to grading and septic system construction, and the town sanitarian has requested changes to the septic system designs. Wetland Agent Shapiro mentioned that when she visited the site, much clearing had occurred, yet silt fence had not been installed. The applicant stated that it has since been installed, and Tim Coon explained that most of the clearing consisted of brush removal.

IV. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION - None

V. STAFF REPORT

Wetland Agent Shapiro distributed and discussed the Wetland's Agent Report. Lise Wood made the motion to accept the Wetland's Agent Report. Dan Fraro seconded. All in Favor. Motion passed.

VI. CORRESPONDENCE AND BILLS

Correspondence was presented from the Town of Ellington regarding CT Department of Housing community development block grants. The resignation letter of the Somers First Selectman was also presented. No bills were presented.

VII. MINUTES APPROVAL for March 1, 2017 and March 20, 2017.

Lise Wood made the motion to accept the minutes as written of March 1, 2017 and March 20, 2017. Dan Fraro seconded. All in Favor. Motion passed.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT -

Lise Wood made the motion to Adjourn. Henry Broer seconded. All in Favor. Motion carried. Meeting was adjourned at 8:07 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,
Commissioner Candace Aleks, Secretary

MINUTES ARE NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL APPROVAL AT A SUBSEQUENT MEETING