

TOWN OF SOMERS
Conservation Commission
600 Main Street
P.O. Box 308
REGULAR MEETING
WEDNESDAY, May 3, 2017
7:00 PM TOWN HALL

MINUTES

I. CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Joan Formeister called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. Commission members in attendance were Chairperson Joan Formeister, Todd Whitford, Greg Genlot, Henry Broer, and Alternate Lise Wood, seated for Candace Aleks. Joanna Shapiro, Wetland Agent, was in attendance.

II. OLD BUSINESS

1. **Discussion/Possible Decision: Application #709:** 37 Shady Dell Lane. Construction of an above-ground pool in the upland review area. Christophe A. Huestis.

Wetland Agent Shapiro explained that she visited the site since the last meeting, and based on the slope and the need for fill to install the pool, she recommended that silt fence be installed prior to construction. She presented an updated plan provided by the applicant, which showed proposed silt fence as requested.

Lise Wood made a motion to approve the application as presented. Greg Genlot seconded motion. Motion passed unanimously.

2. **Discussion/Possible Decision: Application #707:** 40 Maple Street. 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.

Wetland Agent Shapiro presented project plans and briefly reviewed the activities within the wetland that were presented at the last meeting, explaining that direct wetland impacts would be related to removal of debris within the Scantic River and restoration of the stream channel and walls. Commissioners discussed and inquired about any other concerns on the site. Wetland Agent Shapiro explained that she would primarily be concerned with protecting the Scantic River downstream of the site during construction, and that the application included a detailed and prudent plan for achieving dry conditions for the in-stream work, and measures to protect the Scantic River downstream.

Greg Genlot made a motion to approve the application as presented. Lise Wood seconded motion. Motion passed unanimously.

3. **Discussion/Possible Decision: Application #708:** 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 and gave a summary of the presentation given at the last meeting. Mr. Coon categorized the wetland as being associated with a silted-in pond. Wetland Agent Shapiro explained that there is a significant watercourse flowing through the property, and that a dam structure exists on site which had originally created the pond, and that the watercourse is a valuable resource, worthy of protection. Wetland Agent Shapiro stated that while recently visiting the site, she observed that the silt fence had been installed improperly. She had previously requested that the silt fence be installed, as vegetation had already been cleared from the site. The silt fence was not trenched into the ground, and would therefore not prevent sediment from reaching the wetland. The silt fence also was not located as proposed on the project plans, and most of it was installed closer to the wetland than proposed. Finally, the vegetation clearing extended beyond both the existing silt fence as well as the proposed silt fence/limit of disturbance.

Tim Coon explained that trees were not removed, and that the vegetation was merely mowed with a brush hog, but not stumped, so the vegetation would grow back. Wetland Agent Shapiro noted that a pile of trees was observed on-site, presumably taken down while clearing the site, and that the soil was bare from the silt fence back to a very narrow strip of vegetation along the stream and wetland. Wetland Agent Shapiro explained that a wide buffer of vegetation along the wetland and watercourse is beneficial, dissipating energy from rainfall and stormwater runoff, and that the land beyond the proposed limit of disturbance/proposed tree line should not be converted into a lawn, and should remain wooded. The applicant, Pawel Bujnowski, stated that he had no intention of maintaining the area as a manicured lawn. When asked about his future intentions around the wetland/watercourse area, Mr. Bujnowski stated that in the future, he may wish to apply for a permit to dredge the pond. The Commission members and wetland agent confirmed that such an activity would require an additional wetland permit.

Lise Wood made a motion to approve the application with a condition that applicant meet on-site with the wetland agent for a pre-construction meeting to ensure that erosion controls are installed properly. Todd Whitford seconded motion. Motion passed unanimously.

I. NEW BUSINESS

1. **Application #710:** 74 Beverly Drive. Construction of a garage addition in the upland review area. Frederick Moody.

Rachel Dearborn of Landmark Services presented the preliminary project plans, identifying the watercourses on the property, the proposed garage addition, and referring to the high water table. Ms. Dearborn explained that no additional vehicle access/driveway area was being proposed adjacent to the proposed garage addition.

Wetland Agent Shapiro explained that she and Barbara Kelly, a soil scientist with the North Central Conservation District, had visited the site to determine whether the apparent watercourses were in fact regulated watercourses, and to determine the presence of additional wetland areas on the site. They confirmed that they were in fact regulated watercourses on the site, with small associated wetland areas adjacent to the watercourses. The on-site wetlands have never been delineated, and the newly completed drawings only show the centerline of each watercourse and an approximate distance of the proposed garage to the top of bank. Wetland Agent Shapiro asked the Commission whether they would prefer that the wetland be delineated, or whether the approximation of the watercourses was sufficient. Wetland Agent Shapiro explained that the addition of existing and proposed grading on the plan might be helpful, as this is a large addition on a wet site, and this would illustrate how stormwater would be directed away from the garage with consideration of wetland resources. The Commission members requested that existing and proposed grading in the area around the proposed garage be added to the plan, but determined that a formal wetland delineation would not be required at this time.

II. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

Linda Louise LaCasse of 87 Main Street, Somers, was present and inquired about the mill restoration, asking if state or other grant money was being used to fund this work. The Commission and Wetland Agent explained that they are charged with considering the wetland impact of an application, and that the funding source was not part of the wetland application, but suggested that the Town Engineer may be able to answer her questions.

III. STAFF REPORT

Ms. Shapiro distributed and discussed the Wetland Agent Report.

IV. CORRESPONDENCE AND BILLS

Ms. Shapiro presented and distributed correspondence.

V. MINUTES APPROVAL: April 5, 2017

Lise Wood made the motion to accept the minutes of the April 5, 2017 meeting as written. Henry Broer seconded. All in Favor. Motion passed.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Todd Whitford made the motion to Adjourn. Henry Broer seconded. All in Favor. Motion carried. Meeting was adjourned at 7:58 P.M.