

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

MINUTES

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Joan Formeister called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Commission members in attendance were Chairperson Joan Formeister, Daniel Fraro, 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 #710:** 74 Beverly Drive. Construction of a garage addition in the upland review area. Frederick Moody.

Rachel Dearborn of Landmark Surveys presented a revised plan, showing existing grading on the site, and minor proposed grading associated with the proposed garage addition. Wetland Agent Shapiro requested that debris that had been deposited over the years by previous property owners into and adjacent to the on-site watercourses be removed by hand tools. Mr. Moody responded that he had already done so. Ms. Shapiro requested that silt fence be installed to protect the watercourses in the case of a rain event. Ms. Dearborn agreed and made that recommendation to Mr. Moody.

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

III. NEW BUSINESS

1. **Modification/Violation of Application #704:** 5 Bilton Road. Construction of a new two bedroom house in the upland review area. Proposed drainage modification after the fact. Nicholas Pappas.

Wetland Agent Shapiro provided background on this permit, which was approved in November, yet some mishaps had occurred on site, resulting in a new, unpermitted pipe being installed and discharged to the watercourse, associated with the footing drain, originally intended to be tied in to the existing pipe. In the process, the existing septic leach field had been encroached upon and the erosion controls were breached, resulting in erosion through the lawn and sediment being deposited adjacent to the watercourse. Ms. Shapiro reported that the property owner had been very responsive and had already taken action to stabilize the area. Commission members discussed the impact of what had been done, and what may result from further disturbance to remove the pipe.

Lise Wood made a motion to modify wetland permit #704 to include a 4" footing drain pipe, discharging to the watercourse adjacent to the existing pipe, to be shown on the as-built plan prior to issuance of a certificate of occupancy. Henry Broer seconded motion. Motion passed unanimously.

2. **Discussion/Modification: Application #558:** 96 White Oak Road (formerly 99 White Oak Road). Driveway crossing a wetland and wetland mitigation within Upland Review Area for a new house. Requesting grading modification to required wetland mitigation area. Helder Nunes.

Mr. Nunes explained that he had purchased this property with the understanding that the mitigation had been completed, yet later it was discovered that it was not done. Mr. Nunes has begun the excavation for the wetland mitigation area, yet due to concerns regarding the safety of his young children, is requesting that the bottom elevation be limited to 190, rather than including a deeper pool with a bottom elevation of 186 as shown on the plan. Ms. Shapiro explained that based on conversations with Mike Mocko, the consultant who had designed the mitigation area, while the deep pool had been included to provide additional habitat and potential amphibian breeding opportunity, that specific type of habitat had not been lost as a result of construction of the driveway. The Commission discussed whether creation of wetlands to replace the wetland area lost was sufficient, or whether the deep pool had been important in the approval process.

Greg Genlot made a motion to modify wetland permit #558 to eliminate the deep seasonal pool and to construct the mitigation area with a level bottom at an elevation of 190. Daniel Fraro seconded motion. Motion passed unanimously.

3. **Application #711:** 952 Main Street. Septic system and additional grading in the upland review area, associated with conversion of a barn into a home. Kevin Riley. **Guy Hesketh of F.A. Hesketh & Associates, Inc.** presented proposed plans for grading in the upland review area, associated with a proposed septic system, barn conversion, and house addition. Mr. Hesketh identified the wetland areas that had been delineated by a soil scientist, and described the upland soils as very sandy by comparison. Wetland Agent Shapiro expressed concern regarding eliminating the ridge upslope of the wetland, which may provide an opportunity for sediment to enter the wetland and the adjacent Lievre Brook, a significant, high quality watercourse that crosses through the property. Erosion control measures will be critical on this site. Several Commission Members expressed desire to visit this site prior to the next meeting to better visualize the extensive grading being proposed throughout the site.

IV. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION - NONE

V. STAFF REPORT

Ms. Shapiro distributed and discussed the Wetland Agent Report.

VI. CORRESPONDENCE AND BILLS

Ms. Shapiro presented two Journal Inquirer bills, one for \$59.81 from April and one for \$102.31 from May. Daniel Fraro made a motion to approve current bills, Henry Broer seconded, and unanimously approved by the Commission.

The Commission discussed the money budgeted for a conservation project, and that they would like to use it if possible for a worthy project. Greg Genot made a motion to authorize the Chair and the Wetland Agent to identify a conservation project and to expend up to the \$300 budgeted prior to the end of June. Lise Wood seconded, and unanimously approved by the Commission.

VII. MINUTES APPROVAL: May 3, 2017

Lise Wood made the motion to accept the minutes of the May 3, 2017 meeting as written. Henry Broer seconded. All in Favor. Motion passed.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Lise Wood made the motion to Adjourn. Daniel Fraro seconded. All in Favor. Motion carried. Meeting was adjourned at 8:30 P.M.