

**TOWN OF SOMERS**  
**Conservation Commission**  
**600 Main Street**  
**P.O. Box 308**

**REGULAR MEETING**  
**WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 2018**  
**7:00 PM TOWN HALL**  
**MINUTES**

- I. CALL TO ORDER-** Meeting called to order by Chairman Joan Formeister at 7:08 P.M. Commissioners in attendance were Daniel Fraro, Greg Genlot, and Karl Walton. Also present, Joanna Shapiro, Wetland Agent.

Commissioner Walton made a motion to move Old Business to the end of the agenda. Commissioner Genlot seconded. All in Favor. Motion carried.

**II. NEW BUSINESS**

1. **Application #720:** 132 Wright's Brook Drive. Above-ground pool in upland review area. Dwight and Deborah Denley.

Agent Shapiro presented a plot plan of the proposed pool, photos of the current site conditions, and an aerial photo showing the location of the prior pool. Shapiro explained that there was previously a 24' pool on-site, and the current application is for a 21' pool, yet due to the close proximity to a wetland and watercourse, Wright's Brook, she was not able to issue an agent permit for this pool. Dwight and Deborah Denley were present to answer questions. Walton asked about the location of the pool. Mr. Denley explained that the pool would be approximately 7' from the house, in the same location as the previous pool yet smaller, and would be approximately 16' from the wetland. Shapiro explained that the prior pool required a retaining wall, but that the proposed pool is not expected to use a retaining wall. Shapiro presented a document provided by the applicant, containing proposed conditions for installation of a pool adjacent to wetlands, which stated that chlorine should be neutralized prior to draining the pool, and that the water should be drained over the lawn rather than directly to the wetland/watercourse. Shapiro also explained that silt fence is proposed to protect the wetland during construction, and that she had no other concerns at this time.

2. **Application #721:** 119 Parker Road. Proposed Driveway and stormwater drainage in upland review area, associated with construction of a new house. Mark Krasinski and Kristin Stewart.

Steven Aeschliman, engineer from Aeschliman Land Surveying, presented project plans for a new house on a vacant lot, a similar plan to what had been approved in 2005, yet that approval had expired. Aeschliman presented two versions of the plan, one with a fully paved driveway, the other with a primarily gravel driveway aside from the portions required to be paved near the road and in areas exceeding 10% grade. Mr. Krasinski explained that he prefers the gravel driveway for aesthetic reasons, but would like to reserve the option to pave the driveway if the gravel does not work well.

Shapiro identified the resources on the site, including a stream at the base of the proposed driveway and wetland areas in the southwest corner of the property. Shapiro explained that she had been working with the applicant and engineer to incorporate the conditions of the original approval into current plans; including construction of a sediment basin and a stone check dam swale along the driveway during construction.

Shapiro expressed a concern with the paved driveway option, which includes a hooded catch basin that would be located on private property, yet must be maintained in order to provide water quality treatment. Mr. Krasinski stated that he would be responsible for maintaining the catch basin appropriately.

Shapiro identified a discrepancy in the upland review area depicted on the plan, noting that the off-site stream follows along the side of the driveway, and that the majority of the driveway is actually in the upland review area. While the project soil scientist cannot enter the adjacent property to delineate the wetland/watercourse, Shapiro requested that the approximate stream channel, as visible from aerial photos, be depicted on the plan and the upland review area be adjusted accordingly.

Aeschliman confirmed that the sediment basin is only a temporary measure during construction, and will be regraded post-construction. Shapiro asked that Aeschliman provide a proposed maintenance schedule for the proposed catch basin.

3. **Application #722:** 200 Root Road. Proposed Driveway and grading in upland review area, associated with construction of a new house. Dennis and Marianne Barlow.

Tim Coon, engineer from J.R. Russo & Associates, presented project plans for the proposed house and driveway. The driveway will extend from the shared portion of the driveway that has already been approved and constructed, to provide access to the new house on a back lot. Mr. Coon explained that there is a wetland on the property, which Wetland Agent Shapiro had suspected may be a vernal pool. In response, the project soil scientist, Rick Zulick, revisited the site and confirmed that while it is not the appropriate time of year to confirm function as a vernal pool, it may be a vernal pool. Zulick's guidance had been to not alter the tree canopy and shade adjacent to the vernal pool. Mr. Coon explained that they will be utilizing an existing woods road for the driveway, and are not proposing much clearing. Mr. Coon explained that the septic reserve area is in the upland review area, but further than 50' from the wetland as required by the health code.

Shapiro explained that the plan was just submitted the previous day to town hall, and that she had not had time to visit the site or thoroughly review the plans. Shapiro asked if the substantial grading in the upland review area could be reduced by using a retaining wall. Dennis Barlow, applicant, agreed that if there are enough rocks left, he would be willing to install a retaining wall. Joan Formeister asked about the plan for the rest of the lot. Mr. Barlow explained that of the over 20 acre site, the plan is only to clear enough for the house, and to leave the rest wooded, while managing the forest to encourage healthy tree growth. Mr. Fraro asked about the driveway materials and the fire department requirements. Mr. Coon and Mr. Barlow explained that the driveway would be gravel, and that the 16' width is a requirement, as are the turn-around areas.

Shapiro explained that since she had not had the opportunity to visit the site, she may have further questions for the applicant and engineer before the next meeting. Mr. Coon asked if Mr. Zulick would be needed at the next meeting. Karl Walton asked about requested a narrative from Mr. Zulick regarding the vernal pool, and Agent Shapiro asked for the wetland to be labeled on the plan as a potential vernal pool, rather than a pond. Shapiro suggested that the commission may want the wetland boundary to be permanently marked to discourage future encroachment.

Shapiro requested a plan revision to show use of a retaining wall to reduce the amount of grading required in the upland review area.

### **III. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION - None**

### **IV. STAFF REPORT**

Agent Shapiro distributed and discussed the Wetland Agent Report. Included in the staff report was communication from a resident with concerns regarding herbicide spraying along town roads.

Commissioner Genlot made a motion to accept the Wetland Agent report. Commissioner Walton seconded. All were in Favor. Motion carried.

### **V. CORRESPONDENCE AND BILLS**

Agent Shapiro presented the bill of \$65.00 to renew the CACIWC membership. Commissioner Fraro made a motion to pay the bill. Commissioner Walton seconded. All in Favor. Motion carried.

### **VI. MINUTES APPROVAL: July 11, 2018 and August 1, 2018**

Commissioner Fraro made a motion to accept the minutes of July 11, 2018. Commissioner Genlot seconded. All approved. Motion carried.

Commissioner Fraro made a motion to accept the minutes of August 1, 2018. Commissioner Genlot seconded. All approved. Motion carried.

### **VII. OLD BUSINESS**

#### **1. Permanent Wetland Delineation Standards**

Wetlands Agent Joanna Shapiro presented a revised draft of the Permanent Wetland Delineation Standards.

Commissioner Walton made a motion to adopt the Permanent Wetland Delineation Standards as presented. Commissioner Fraro seconded. All in Favor. Motion carried.

### **VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

Commissioner Walton made the motion to Adjourn.

Commissioner Fraro seconded.

All in Favor. Motion Carried. Meeting was adjourned at 8:02 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Joanna Shapiro, Wetland Agent

**MINUTES ARE NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL APPROVED AT A SUBSEQUENT MEETING**