

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

REGULAR MEETING
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2018
7:00 PM TOWN HALL
MINUTES

I. CALL TO ORDER- Meeting called to order by Chairman Joan Formeister at 7:02 P.M. Commissioners in attendance were Daniel Fraro, Greg Genlot, Karl Walton, and Todd Whitford. Also present, Joanna Shapiro, Wetland Agent.

II. OLD BUSINESS

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

Agent Shapiro summarized what was presented at the last meeting and provided a plot plan of the proposed pool. Shapiro explained that silt fence would be used to protect Wright's Brook during construction, and that the applicants had provided a list of practices/conditions that they have agreed to adhere to, including practices for preventing chlorinated water from entering the brook.

Karl Walton made a motion to approve application #720.
Greg Genlot seconded. All in Favor. Motion carried.

2. **Discussion/Possible Decision: 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.

Wetland Agent Shapiro presented revised copies, revised to 10/2/18, of both versions of the plan (fully paved driveway option and partial gravel driveway option) and explained that the address was changed from 119 to 109 to ensure that the houses are in sequence along the road. Shapiro explained that there had been a meeting between the project engineer, applicant, town engineer, and wetland agent to discuss and resolve concerns, particularly regarding stormwater runoff onto neighboring properties and into the town road. As a result, several revisions have been made to both plans.

Mark Krasinski, the applicant, explained his preference toward the gravel option, but noted that he would like to have the paved option approved as well in case it is needed.

Steven Aeschliman, the project engineer from Aeschliman Land Surveying, explained that a grass swale was added to the northern edge of the driveway on both plans, with a note that additional measures shall be added to slow flows and reduce erosion if needed. Shapiro explained that post-construction, the sedimentation basin will now be cleaned out, seeded, and used as a permanent detention basin to decrease runoff onto

the downgradient property. Shapiro pointed out that the revisions improve stormwater management, but do not significantly alter the encroachment on wetland areas. The approximate location of the off-site stream to the north has been added to the plan, and the upland review area depicted has been revised to encompass most of the driveway.

Shapiro read a memo from the Town Engineer, dated 10/3/18, stating “I have reviewed the 109 Parker Road plans dated 8/30/18 and revised 10/2/18. All of my comments have been addressed and approve either driveway proposal.” Shapiro confirmed that her concerns had also been addressed in the revised plans and that the Town Sanitarian had reviewed the plans as well. She explained that given the tight space available for the driveway, several proposed measures have been included to manage stormwater, and this plan represents an upgrade to the plan that was approved in 2005.

Whitford inquired about the stormwater discharge point. Shapiro explained that on the paved driveway plan, a hooded catch basin would collect stormwater, contain floatables, and allow sediments to settle out before discharging stormwater via an upgraded 12” pipe to the stream at the base of the driveway before it crosses Parker Road. Maintenance of this catch basin is necessary for it to function optimally, which will be the responsibility of the property owner. Shapiro explained that for the gravel driveway option, an improved rip rap scour hole has been added to the plan at the discharge point before the stream to reduce erosion and collect sediment.

Greg Genlot made a motion to approve application #721.
Dan Fraro seconded. All in Favor. Motion carried.

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

Joe Ussery from J.R. Russo & Associates presented project plans revised to 10-2-18 as well as a letter dated 9-19-18 from Richard Zulick, the project soil scientist. Mr. Ussery explained that to address concerns regarding the potential vernal pool, Zulick revisited the site, and while he could not confirm the wetland’s function as a vernal pool due to the time of year, he determined that it was potentially a vernal pool and the wetland should be treated as such. Zulick recommended that in conjunction with the silt fence proposed, a double row of straw bales also be installed between the proposed grading and the potential vernal pool, and shall not be removed after construction. This recommendation has been incorporated into the plan.

Ussery explained that based on comments from the Wetland Agent at the previous meeting, the limit of grading/disturbance has been moved further from the wetland by incorporation of a stone retaining wall. Shapiro reviewed a key element of the plan, that the limit of clearing for the driveway in the area closest to the potential vernal pool generally maintains the existing treeline and shading for the potential vernal pool. Shapiro and Mr. Barlow explained that the builder expressed potential to provide further separation between the driveway and the wetland.

Commissioners discussed adding a condition of permanently marking the wetland area to discourage future property owners from encroaching into the wetland area or clearing near the potential vernal pool. Shapiro explained the process and materials and provided written Permanent Wetland Delineation Standards for reference.

Shapiro explained that from discussions with the town sanitarian, the septic reserve area shown within the upland review area is unlikely to be used. If it is needed in the future, it will be reviewed at that time.

Dan Fraro made a motion to approve application #721.

Greg Genlot seconded. Commissioners discussed whether any conditions are needed, and included one condition, that the wetland area be permanently marked.

All in Favor. Motion carried.

III. NEW BUSINESS - None

IV. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION - None

V. STAFF REPORT

Agent Shapiro distributed and discussed the Wetland Agent Report.

Shapiro sought guidance from the commission regarding proposed sheds on two sites.

-By consensus, the commission directed the Wetland Agent that on a site with an established roadway and deposition of materials, both encroaching on the wetland area, the roadway and yard waste should both be removed prior to issuance of a wetland permit.

-The commission reaffirmed that even a small shed under 200' that requires a zoning permit but does not require a building permit shall require a wetland permit, and if closer than 25' to the wetland, the permit shall be from the commission and not the wetland agent.

-Also included in the staff report was follow-up communication from the Director of Public Works to the resident concerned about herbicide spraying along town roads. The commission expressed an interest in learning more regarding the practice.

Karl Walton made a motion to accept the Wetland Agent report.

Todd Whitford seconded. All were in Favor. Motion carried.

VI. CORRESPONDENCE AND BILLS - None

VII. MINUTES APPROVAL: September 5, 2018

Karl Walton made a motion to accept the minutes of September 5, 2018.

Dan Fraro seconded. All in Favor. Motion carried.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Karl Walton made the motion to Adjourn.

Dan Fraro seconded. All in Favor. Motion Carried.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:51 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,
Joanna Shapiro, Wetland Agent

MINUTES ARE NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL APPROVED AT A SUBSEQUENT MEETING