

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

SPECIAL MEETING
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2018
7:00 PM TOWN HALL
MINUTES

I. **CALL TO ORDER** – Meeting called to order by Chairperson Joan Formeister at 7:00 P.M. Commissioners in attendance were Karl Walton, Daniel Fraro, Greg Genlot, and Secretary, Candace Aleks. Also present, Joanna Shapiro, Town of Somers Wetlands Agent.

II. **OLD BUSINESS** –

1. **Discussion/Possible Decision: Application #723:** 228 Watchaug Road. Garage in Upland Review Area. Aurelio D'Angelo.

Rachel Dearborn from Landmark Services represented the homeowner of the existing house on Watchaug Rd. The homeowner wants to build a detached garage off of his existing driveway. The garage is approximately 50 feet away from the wetlands, within the 100 foot area. Wetlands Agent Shapiro does not have significant concerns about the application and work to be done because upon her inspection, the area is very flat and silt fence will be installed. The homeowner should not install gutter pipes that would discharge into the wetland.

Karl Walton made the motion to approve the application.

Dan Fraro seconded. All were in Favor. The motion passed unanimously.

2. **Extension of Permit #622:** 1046 Main Street. Driveway Crossing and Grading in Upland Review Area. Natalia Khandros.

The applicant has requested a 5-year extension of the application. The applicant is presently on a work assignment out of the country. The explanation given in the written request was acceptable to the Commission. The 5-year extension is the maximum that can be granted, and the permit would be valid until February 3, 2024.

Dan Fraro made the motion to allow the permit to be extended for 5 years.

Karl Walton seconded. All were in Favor. Motion passed.

III. NEW BUSINESS –

1. **Violation/Jurisdictional Determination:** 60 Cooksville Road. Clearing and Grading in Upland Review Area.

The Town Hall received complaints about the land movement project that evidently went on near the pond area at the location above, and also by a small wetland pocket on a different parcel of land. It has been maintained as an open space area, although is not deeded open space. The Wetland Agent observed extensive excavation and stockpiling adjacent to, and possibly within, the wetland adjacent to the pond, and also saw evidence that trees had been taken down and piled in or adjacent to the small wetland pocket on an adjacent lot.

Wetlands Agent Shapiro had contacted the landowner to inquire about the work that was being done. The owner explained to her that the trees near the pond had been removed to make more pasture land for the cattle. The landowner agreed to install a silt fence to protect the pond. He also stated he had hoped to complete the excavation in a timely manner but due to rain the project went on longer than he expected. He was told that a request to clear cut and grade within the upland review area should have come before the Commission.

The Commission decided to cite the landowner for this violation. A letter will be sent to the landowner with instructions for him to come before the Commission to discuss the violation and the proper clean-up process to be completed.

2. Approval of Proposed 2019 Meeting Dates

The Proposed Meeting Dates for 2019 were presented. Meetings are held the first Wednesday of every month, as follows:

January 2 February 6 March 6 April 3 May 1 June 5

July 3 August 7 September 4 October 2 November 6 December 4

Karl Walton made the motion to approve the dates presented.

Dan Fraro seconded. All in Favor. Motion passed unanimously.

IV. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION –

None.

IV. STAFF/COMMISSION REPORT –

Ms. Shapiro distributed and discussed the Wetland's Agent Report.

*Commissioner Genlot made a motion to accept the Wetland's Agent report.
Commissioner Fraro seconded. All were in Favor. Motion carried.*

V. CORRESPONDENCE AND BILLS –

Ms. Shapiro presented a bill from the Journal Inquirer.

Letters were also presented from FEMA and from the DEEP Dam Safety. A notification letter was sent to the Commission regarding the installation of a large solar array on Bailey Road in Enfield.

*Karl Walton made a motion to pay the Bill.
Greg Genlot seconded. All in Favor. Motion passed.*

VI. MINUTES APPROVAL: October 3, 2018

Minutes approval was deferred.

VII. ADJOURNMENT –

*Karl Walton made the motion to Adjourn.
Dan Fraro seconded. All in Favor. Motion Passed.*

Meeting was adjourned at 8:09 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Commissioner Candace Aleks, Secretary

MINUTES ARE NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL APPROVED AT A SUBSEQUENT MEETING