

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

REGULAR MEETING
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2019
7:00 PM TOWN HALL
MINUTES

I. CALL TO ORDER – Meeting called to order by Chairperson Joan Formeister at 7:00pm. Commissioners in attendance were Candace Aleks, Daniel Fraro, Drew Kukucka, and Karl Walton. Also in attendance were recording secretary Tara Comrie and Wetland Agent Joanna Shapiro.

II. OLD BUSINESS

1. **Application #732:** 440 Turnpike Road. Construct addition to existing house in Upland Review Area, with temporary direct wetland disturbance. John Galinski.
Application has been withdrawn

III. NEW BUSINESS

1. **Application #733:** 133 Sokol Road. Construct single family home in Upland Review Area (prior approval #621 has expired and plan has been revised). David Birkenshaw.

Mr. Birkenshaw presented the plans for the single family home construction. Agent Shapiro explained that they have been updated since they were last approved, but that they are very similar to what was approved in early 2010. She then presented the old plans for comparison and stated that the limit of disturbance is the same on the new plans as it is on the previously approved plans. Karl Walton reviewed the two plans and stated that the driveway turnout is on the other side of the house in new plans. Mr Birkenshaw stated that the footprint of the house has been decreased as well.

The new plans include the existing tree line and proposed tree line. Agent Shapiro explains that a lot line revision has been done since the previous plans were presented in 2010. There is now a smaller portion of the wetland on the property.

Drew Kukucka asks why the lot line revision was done. Agent Shapiro states that the original lot lines were done for subdivision approval, but the subdivision plans changed later in the process, and thus the lot lines were revised.

A condition of approval on the previous plans was permanent marking of the wetland boundary. Karl Walton asks if the small segment of wetland shown on the plans is significant enough to necessitate markers. Joan Formeister also indicates that she is unsure if a marker is necessary. Karl Walton concludes that he doesn't believe so. He states that there is no risk of a future homeowner putting a shed in the small wetland region because zoning regulations already require an accessory building to be 25 ft. from the lot line.

Tentative plans are made to meet in 2 weeks on 11/20 for a special meeting to potentially approve the application.

2. Revision of Wetland Application form

Joan Formeister updated the Commission on the status of revision of the wetland application form, an effort by a subcommittee consisting of herself, Drew Kukucka, and Agent Shapiro. Agent Shapiro states that it is in progress, but that the official draft is not yet complete. Joan Formeister and Drew Kukucka remind the committee that the purpose of the revision is to make the form more formal and informative by including some of the information that other towns require for their application. The application will likely be a two-sided form, and possibly instructions and an application checklist. The subcommittee will forward a draft of the form to the committee members via email for comments and suggestions.

3. Approval of Proposed 2020 Meeting Dates

Agent Shapiro distributed a list of proposed meeting dates for 2020. There is a discussion of whether or not the July 1st meeting is practical considering the holiday. Agent Shapiro states that the risk of eliminating the July meeting is that the committee is not able to receive a new application at a special meeting. Joan Formeister says that the schedule will be left as is with the option to cancel as needed.

Karl Walton moved to accept the proposed meeting dates as written.

Candace Aleks seconded.

All in favor. The motion passed.

IV. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

None

V. STAFF REPORT

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

Candace Aleks made a motion to accept Wetland Agent's Report.

Daniel Fraro Seconded. All in Favor. Motion passed.

VI. CORRESPONDENCE AND BILLS

Agent Shapiro presented a Membership Application Renewal and membership fee request of \$65 from the Connecticut Association of Conservation and Inland Wetlands Commission.

Agent Shapiro presented copies of The Habitat Newsletter, also from CACIWC.

Agent Shapiro presented a river report card from the Scantic River Watershed Group. She explained that the group was hoping to distribute report cards based on

3-4 years of monitoring data, and that they were asking for input on what types of information should be included in the report card going forward. The Commission also discussed possibly including the water quality monitoring expense for the several Somers monitoring locations in their budget.

Agent Shapiro presented a bill from the Journal Inquirer for a legal notice from the August 7, 2019 meeting for \$59.81

Candace Aleks made a motion to pay the bills. Daniel Fraro seconded.

VII. MINUTES APPROVAL: August 7, 2019

Daniel Fraro made the motion to accept the minutes of August 7, 2019.

Karl Walton seconded. All in favor. Minutes were approved.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Karl Walton made the motion to Adjourn.

Daniel Fraro seconded. All in Favor. Motion carried.
Meeting was adjourned at 8:02 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tara Comrie, Recording Secretary

MINUTES ARE NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL APPROVED AT A SUBSEQUENT MEETING