

TOWN OF SOMERS
Conservation Commission
600 Main Street

SPECIAL MEETING
MONDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2020
4:00 PM – VIRTUAL MEETING VIA TELECONFERENCE (ZOOM)
MINUTES

I. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order by Chairperson Joan Formeister at 4:04pm. Commissioners in attendance were Candace Aleks, Daniel Fraro, and Karl Walton. Also in attendance were recording secretary Tara Comrie and Wetland Agent Shapiro.

II. OLD BUSINESS

1. **Discussion/Possible Decision Application #736:** 236 Watchaug Road. Dredge existing pond to maintain drainage for existing house and lawn. Heather Chase.

The owner wants to dredge the existing pond to maintain drainage for existing house and lawn. Agent Shapiro noted that owner Heather Chase was unable to attend tonight, but noted that there were no additional questions from the prior meeting.

Karl Walton stated that he agrees that the application is very straight forward.
Karl Walton made the motion to approve Application #736
Daniel Fraro seconded. All in favor. The motion was approved.

2. **Discussion/Possible Decision Application #737:** 110 Mountain View Road. Construction of driveway within Upland Review Area. Chris Bores.

Agent Shapiro reported that the plans are now complete. She had previously been waiting on a few items such as wetland flags, erosion control notes, and the soil scientist signature, which have all been resolved. Agent Shapiro stated that she has an electronic copy of the plans, and Chris Bores states that he dropped off the hard copy this morning at the town hall.

Agent Shapiro visited the property with the applicant and has no further concerns. Karl Walton made the motion to approve Application #737.
Candace Aleks seconded. All in favor. The motion was approved.

3. **Discussion/Possible Decision Application #738:** 186 Stebbins Road. Subdivision of property to create an additional house lot. John E. and Dorian A. Jones.

Agent Shapiro explained that she had been waiting on details in plans described in the original review of the application, and that she had received the revised plans since then. The revised plans show that minimal grading will be required based on the proposed house configuration.

Agent Shapiro stated that the owners are not looking to build the house yet, but wish to obtain approval in order to subdivide and sell the existing house. She explained that the upland review area 100 ft from the wetland is shown to require very minor grading, and that building on the property can maintain the existing topography.
Karl Walton asked if the property is a cornfield. Agent Shapiro stated that the property

was most recently a hay field. Dorian Jones confirms that it was hay at one point but is currently just a field.

Karl Walton made the motion to approve Application #738

Candace Aleks seconded. All in favor. The motion is approved.

III. NEW BUSINESS

1. **Jurisdictional Ruling:** 183 Root Road. Temporary watercourse crossing to provide access for logging. David Fontaine.

Agent Shapiro stated that the ultimate plan for the property is to build a house in the back of the property outside of the upland review area. The owners are currently looking to do some tree clearing to determine where the optimum placement of the house may be. The only regulated activity that would be involved at this point is the temporary crossing of the intermittent watercourse, and tree clearing to gain access to the back of the lot.

Agent Shapiro stated that a plan was submitted to her with a sketch and description of the temporary crossing. The owners will eventually have to come back to the wetlands commission for a permanent crossing permit before constructing a driveway.

Joan Formeister asked if there will be a substantial filling of wetlands if a driveway is added in the future. Agent Shapiro state that there will not be, because it's a very limited crossing for a small watercourse.

Karl Walton asked if it would fall under the owners use of right. Agent Shapiro replied that it can qualify for that ruling since they will just be cutting trees and using a temporary crossing for now, if the Commission is comfortable with that.

Agent Shapiro stated that the property drops off considerably, so the owners are looking for the best place to put the house. Karl Walton asked who the owner is and Rick McCullough replied that David Fontaine will be closing on the property this week.

Karl Walton stated that the plan falls under an owner's right, and that they submitted a logical plan for forest improvement, as thinning bad trees will benefit wildlife.

Agent Shapiro stated that since neither clear-cutting nor filling in the wetland is proposed, a jurisdictional ruling may be considered. Joan Formeister stated that ideally, conditions should be dry, and that they are due to current drought conditions.

Agent Shapiro stated that she plans to be in touch with the applicant to monitor the work's progress. Mike Mocko stated that the work will be starting in 2-3 weeks and that he will notify Agent Shapiro once the crossing is in place for inspection.

Karl Walton made a motion to approve the proposed activity at 183 Root Road as an as of right activity.

Candace Aleks seconded. All in favor. Motion is approved.

IV. MINUTES APPROVAL: October 7, 2020

Candace Aleks made a motion to approve the minutes from October 7, 2020.

Daniel Fraro seconded. All in favor. Minutes were approved.

V. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 4:29 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Tara Comrie, Recording Secretary

MINUTES ARE NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL APPROVED AT A SUBSEQUENT MEETING