

TOWN OF SOMERS
Conservation Commission
600 Main Street

REGULAR MEETING
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 2, 2021

7:00 PM – VIRTUAL MEETING VIA TELECONFERENCE (ZOOM)
MINUTES

I. **CALL TO ORDER** – Meeting called to order by Chairperson Joan Formeister at 7:02pm. Commissioners in attendance were Candace Aleks, Daniel Fraro, and Greg Genlot. Also in attendance were Recording Secretary Tara Comrie and Wetland Agent Joanna Shapiro.

II. **OLD BUSINESS**

1. **Discussion/Violation:** 11 Ninth District Road. Unpermitted vegetation clearing and construction of sheds in wetland along Gulf Stream.

Owner Kevin Riley was on the call. He stated that Steve Jacobs stopped by to help him determine the best location for the shed. Agent Shapiro stated that a building permit and a wetland permit would be needed prior to installing the shed.

Agent Shapiro asked if the alfalfa groundcover would be planted along the stream. Mr. Riley stated that he hadn't come up with a plan for planting there but that growth was coming back.

Greg Genlot asked Agent Shapiro if she noticed the growth when she visited the site to take pictures and she said that she had. She stated that there would need to be more planting done, especially of larger plants, to provide shading to the area and Mr. Riley stated that he will have a plan by the next meeting.

III. **NEW BUSINESS**

1. **Application #750:** 66 Lovers Lane. Construction of in-ground pool in the Upland Review Area. Milton and Tara Jackson.

Agent Shapiro stated that she had spoken with Jen from PoolMan about the plan for the pool. She also went to visit the site the week before the meeting.

Tara Jackson was on the call and stated that the plan was to put the pool directly behind the house, but was shifted to gain more distance from the wetland. The reason for choosing this location is the fact that the septic and well are on the other side of the yard. During construction, precautions will be taken to avoid disrupting the wetlands, such as a silt fence. The area is already clear so no clearing will need to be done.

Jen from Poolman sent an email stating that the pool will only be drained every 15 years by a professional to prevent water running off into the wetland. There will be a water-conserving cartridge system to avoid backwashing.

Joanna stated that the location of the pool is the most level area in the yard, outside of the leach field, and there's dense vegetation between the proposed pool and wetland.

2. **Application #751:** 67 Pine Knob Road. Construction of new house and driveway in the Upland Review Area. Matthew Burzdak.

Agent Shapiro stated that the site is undeveloped, maintained as a field in the area of the proposed house, and there's a stream at the front of the property with an existing culvert. The owner is not proposing changes to the culvert and crossing. They are proposing an extension of the driveway within the upland review area. Additionally, the sides of the house and grading will also be in the upland review area.

Agent Shapiro stated that the property was delineated in 2018. She asked what the nature of the wetlands is, specifically the portion that pools near the beginning of the driveway. She stated that she's concerned it could be a vernal pool and amphibian breeding ground. The plans show proper erosion controls during construction. Matthew Burzduk stated that soil scientist Rick Zulick sent in a letter stating that the proposed work does not pose a risk of impact to the wetland, which he will provide. Agent Shapiro stated that it will be important to be aware of amphibian movement through the site during and after construction. Permanent boundary markers will likely be a requirement of approval. Yard maintenance should take into account the wetlands and yard waste should not be put near wetlands.

3. **Application #752:** 11 Tumble Brook Circle. Construction of an in-ground pool in the Upland Review Area. David Springer.

Eric Peterson with Gardner and Peterson Associates displayed a plan showing the proposed pool and some grading, plus a soil stockpile for during construction. He stated that soil scientist Rick Zulick was in the process of marking the wetlands on the property. Once the property is flagged, the plan may change.

Agent Shapiro asked if it was possible to move the pool closer to the house and minimize clearing and grading. Mr. Peterson stated that the updated plan would take into account the opinion of the soil scientist.

IV. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

None

V. STAFF REPORT

Agent Shapiro stated that at Shady Lake good progress has been made. The detention basin is phase two is in and has been seeded.

On Eleanor Rd. the basin is in and on its way to being stabilized, with grass growing in. The property at the top of the mountain on Root Rd has had some issues with erosion after sitting for some time due to legal matters. A lot of progress has been made and Agent Shapiro will be revisiting.

On 183 Mountain Rd plans for a new house and driveway were approved in 2006. One of the conditions of the permit was that the culvert be widened. This is currently an issue being worked on because widening the culvert will result in the driveway extending beyond the easement.

Candace Aleks made a motion to accept the staff report.

Greg Genlot seconded. All in favor. Motion carried.

VI. CORRESPONDENCE AND BILLS

The intervener's attorney sent a notice of an appeal of the decision for 50 Hangdog Ln.

VII. MINUTES APPROVAL: May 5, 2021

Greg Genlot made a motion to approve the minutes from the May 5, 2021 meeting.

Daniel Fraro seconded. All in favor. Motion carried.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Candace Aleks made a motion to adjourn. Daniel Fraro seconded.

All in favor. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 7:55pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tara Comrie, Recording Secretary

MINUTES ARE NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL APPROVED AT A SUBSEQUENT MEETING