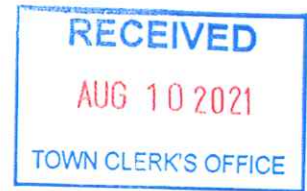


TOWN OF SOMERS
Conservation Commission
600 Main Street

REGULAR MEETING
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 4, 2021
7:00 PM TOWN HALL
MINUTES



I. CALL TO ORDER Meeting called to order by Joan Formeister at 7:05 pm. Commissioners in attendance were Candice Aleks, Daniel Fraro, and Karl Walton. Also in attendance were Recording Secretary Tara Comrie and Wetland Agent Joanna Shapiro.

II. OLD BUSINESS

1. **Discussion/Possible Decision: Application #750:** 66 Lovers Lane. Construction of in-ground pool in the Upland Review Area. Milton and Tara Jackson. Agent Shapiro reminded the commission that the application was discussed last month with no outstanding questions. The commission members stated that they had reviewed the plan. Agent Shapiro summarized that the pool would be approximately 60 ft. from the wetland which is heavily wooded, on a level area of the lawn. She concluded that there were no concerns.

Karl Walton made a motion to approve Application #750: 66 Lovers Lane. Construction of in-ground pool in the Upland Review Area. Milton and Tara Jackson.

Candace Aleks seconded.

All in favor. Motion carried.

2. **Discussion/Possible Decision: Application #751:** 67 Pine Knob Road. Construction of new house and driveway in the Upland Review Area. Matthew Burzduk. Agent Shapiro stated that since the last meeting she had received letter from Rick Zulick, soil scientist. Mr. Zulick was in attendance at the meeting to answer any questions. The main issue that Agent Shapiro brought up was regarding the wetland areas that surround the level field area where the house will be. The house is not quite 100' from the surrounding wetlands. There is an existing culvert for the driveway, and there are streams on the property. As she walked the perimeter, an area closer to the existing driveway was very ponded in the spring. She expressed concern about this being a vernal pool, and amphibian breeding potentially being disrupted.

Karl Walton asked if the risk is guaranteed or just potential.

Agent Shapiro stated that the risk existed potentially during construction. The construction could result in disturbance to the area at the wrong time, when amphibians are migrating. She suggested staggering the silt fence to allow amphibians to move freely. She stated that there are also long term concerns with maintaining the property to leave as much vegetation as possible in the area of the vernal pool.

Rick Zulick did the wetland delineation for the property and showed the plan to the commission. He showed that the property is surrounded by wetlands and explained that there is existing access from Pine Knob Road with a culverted crossing prior to entry of field. He stated that the owner has no intent to change the driveway. He stated that he looked at the potential vernal pool and concluded that it likely has limited vernal pool functions and should be treated as a vernal pool, and that it's critical to not cut trees around it. He stated that the construction activity will have no impact on the vernal pool.

Agent Shapiro stated that the plan shows the house footprint, grading, septic, silt fence, and the limit of work around 50 ft. from the wetland. The house is 100 ft from wetland except for a little corner that is in the upland review area. The house and driveway will be as far from the wetland as possible. She stated that the wetland is very ponded. The tree line is very close to the wetland line. Between the house and wetland is a meadow. The previous condition of approval was wetland marking, and concern was discussed about any future owner turning the meadow into lawn and using chemicals at the wetland line.

IV. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION
NONE

Candace Aleks made a motion to amend the agenda to move the Executive Session to the end of the agenda.

Daniel Fraro seconded.

All in favor. Motion carried.

V. STAFF REPORT

Agent Shapiro told the commission that at Shady Lake the detention basin had been constructed at the end of the road and stabilized. She had visited after the tornado and it was still in good shape.

Agent Shapiro reported that vegetation had grown in along the stream at 11/17 Ninth District Road, and that the property owner is working on coming into compliance with building permits, and then we'll assess whether wetland permits are needed as well.

Agent Shapiro stated that she had been getting calls from property owners with concerns of erosion of yards and driveways. She has given advice to property owners and connected them with public works.

She stated that 204 Root Rd. currently doesn't have a CO because the driveway is too steep per town regulations. Once the driveway corrected she will revisit to check if the site is fully stabilized.

Agent Shapiro received a call from a property owner on Skyridge Dr. regarding a concern about brush piling near a stream causing a possible obstruction of the stream. There had been clearing for a new septic. Agent Shapiro visited the property and determined that the brush was not causing an issue for the stream.

On 119 George Wood Rd. there was a call about erosion issues due to the rain. The recently excavated soil was piled without sufficient erosion controls, and sediment had run off into the road. More erosion controls have since been added.

Property owners on Highland View Dr. expressed concern about some clearing that was taking place. Agent Shapiro spoke to the property owner who was expanding their lawn nowhere near a wetland.

Candace Aleks made a motion to accept the staff report.

Karl Walton seconded.

All in favor. Motion carried.

VI. CORRESPONDENCE AND BILLS

There were no bills presented.

Agent Shapiro stated that in the recently approved budget the commission was allocated \$350 to fund the Scantic water quality monitoring, in addition to the usual \$300 conservation project budget.