

TOWN OF SOMERS
Conservation Commission
600 Main Street



REGULAR MEETING
WEDNESDAY, June 1, 2022
7:00 PM TOWN HALL
MINUTES

I. CALL TO ORDER –

Meeting called to order by Chairwoman Joan Formeister at 7:04. Commissioners in attendance were Candace Aleks, Sydney Flowers, Daniel Fraro, Drew Kukucka, and alternate Lise Wood. Also in attendance was Wetland Agent Joanna Shapiro.

Joan Formeister seated Lise Wood for Karl Walton.

II. OLD BUSINESS

1. **Discussion/Possible Decision: Application #770:** 44 Broadway Road. Construction of new house and driveway within Upland Review Area and Wetland. KRL Builders Inc.

Ric Leno was in attendance to represent the application, and explained the revisions to the plan. He explained that the house and driveway were moved further from the wetland, and the existing tree line would be maintained. The surveyor forgot to move the silt fence to the tree line, but the silt fence will be moved to the tree line. Additional culverts were added under the driveway to handle runoff, and rip rap will be added to the discharge points. The driveway was constructed years ago when originally approved.

Agent Shapiro explained that her original concerns about the proximity of the house and driveway to the wetland were alleviated in this new plan, and that Ric already addressed her comments regarding the silt fence and outlet protection for the crossings.

The commission discussed placement of permanent wetland boundary markers, approximately 7 markers to be placed at the clearing limit from wetland flag 75 to the driveway turnaround, and one additional marker near the location of the twin 15" tree shown on the plan. Ric Leno asked to use lally columns filled with cement as monuments, no concerns were raised.

Lise Wood made a motion to approve application 770: 44 Broadway Road, Construction of new house and driveway within Upland Review Area and Wetland, KRL Builders Inc., with the conditions of installing 8 permanent wetland markers, adjustment of silt fence, and addition of rip rap as discussed. Sydney Flowers seconded. Motion carried.

III. NEW BUSINESS

1. **Jurisdictional Ruling/Application #774:** 459 Pinney Road. Clear-Cutting in wetland and Upland Review Area to expand cropland in Upland Review Area. Wildlife & Forest Management, LLC (c/o James Wysocki).

Jim Wysocki was present to represent the application. Agent Shapiro distributed updated application and site sketches provided by the applicant. Commission members discussed the agricultural exemption and whether the application meets the exemption.

Drew asked about what type of farming would occur in that area. Commission members clarified that clearing for crop land is allowed, but not other farm land, and that should be specified. Jim Wysocki confirmed that the land surrounding the wetland will be used as cropland, and that within the wetland, trees will only be cleared so that they do not shade the adjacent cropland, but the wetland will not be farmed. Jim Wysocki made suggested amendments on the application form.

Lise Wood made a motion to approve jurisdictional ruling Application 774: 459 Pinney Road. Clear-cutting in wetland and Upland Review Area to expand cropland in Upland Review Area, as an agricultural use as-of-right. Dan Fraro seconded. Motion Carried.

IV. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION - NONE

V. STAFF REPORT

Agent Shapiro reported on the following:

39 Collins – Agent Shapiro issued a minimal impact wetland permit for two small sheds, which combined were under 500 square feet, and over 25' from the wetland.

42 Dillenback – Agent Shapiro has had multiple inquiries regarding two properties on Dillenback that are for sale, consisting of agricultural land and containing extensive wetlands. No formal information is available, as no due diligence has been done.

127 Four Bridges Road – Agent Shapiro described a recent phone conversation with the landowner, who has experienced increased flooding, and wondered if adjacent development and runoff may be contributing to the issue.

Drew Kukucka asked about 56 Durkee Road, since there is still a pile of debris in the area where someone had started constructing a shed. Agent Shapiro will look into this.

Agent Shapiro reported that the town is implementing a new online building permitting process, which will be an improvement. A new director of land use has also been hired.

Candace Aleks made, Drew Kukucka seconded, a motion to accept the staff report. Motion carried.

VI. CORRESPONDENCE AND BILLS

Agent Shapiro reported that CT Farmland Trust has identified Somers as containing some of the best farmland in the state, and would like to partner with a town commission. Commission members were very interested in the potential benefit of this program, and wondered what exactly the CFT was interested in their partners being able to provide.

Agent Shapiro shared a note from Hank Broer, former Conservation Commission member, who was thanking commission members for their 90th birthday greetings.

VII. MINUTES APPROVAL: May 4, 2022

Lise Wood made, and Dan Fraro seconded, a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Motion Carried.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Lise Wood made, and Dan Fraro seconded, a motion to adjourn at 8:37pm. Motion Carried.

Respectfully Submitted, Joanna Shapiro, Wetland Agent

MINUTES ARE NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL APPROVED AT A SUBSEQUENT MEETING