

TOWN OF SOMERS
Conservation Commission
600 Main Street

REGULAR MEETING
WEDNESDAY, JULY 5, 2023
7:00 PM TOWN HALL
MINUTES

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Joan Formeister at 7:01 P. M. Commissioners in attendance were Vice Chairperson Drew Kukucka, Candace Aleks, and Sydney Flowers. Also present was Joanna Shapiro, Town of Somers Wetlands Agent.

II. OLD BUSINESS

1. **Discussion/Possible Decision Application #792:** 573 Hall Hill Road. Construction of detached garage in the Upland Review Area. Christopher Williams.
Joanna Shapiro presented the building plans, which show that the garage is almost entirely in the upland review area. The house construction was permitted by the Commission a few years ago, and they are now planning to build a garage. At last month's meeting, Joanna Shapiro asked the project engineer if there would be any impact near where the existing swale and mitigation planting are in the upland review area, and he had responded that the project would not impact the swale. Also, the updated plan doesn't show any additional discharge locations from the original plans presented. The owner, Chris Williams, was in attendance, and he did not have any questions.
Drew Kukucka made a motion to approve application #792 (573 Hall Hill Road), Construction of a detached garage in the Upland Review Area, based on the following:
 - The Commission finds that the Applicant has submitted all necessary application materials pursuant to Section 211-7 of the Wetlands Regulations, including but not limited to Section 211-7(E)(5), "Alternatives considered and rejected."
 - The Commission did not find the proposed activities "significant."
 - The Commission finds that the criteria set forth in Section 211-10B have been met by the Applicant.Commissioner Candace Aleks seconded. All were in favor, and the motion carried.

Candace Aleks made a motion to add Application #793 (700 Main Street) to the agenda under New Business. Commissioner Drew Kukucka seconded. All were in favor, and the motion carried.

III. NEW BUSINESS

1. **Application #793,** 700 Main Street, Restore flow within the watercourse to correct flooding. Northern CT Land Trust.
Joanna Shapiro discussed the plan, that the Land Trust would like to clear out a section of the stream because it has been blocked with debris, and a lot of vegetation has grown in, which is causing flooding on both the Land Trust and the neighbor's property near the driveway. The stream was previously altered, and the location, right above the overcrowding debris/vegetation, the stream was redirected at a sharp angle so it would run down the edge of the property. It was determined that this would likely not meet the agricultural exemptions, so the Land Trust applied for a permit. The Land Trust property has not been leased in a couple of years, but they may have a new farmer who wants to lease the land. The neighbor had brought this up with the Land Trust because there was flooding happening near the driveway. The state DOT had previously cleaned out the section that runs along 190, but it has not been cleaned out past that sharp turn in decades.

Land Trust will most likely bring in a bobcat to do the work, but not sure yet; Joanna Shapiro will confirm with the Land Trust what type of equipment will be used. Joanna Shapiro will also talk with the Land Trust about buffer zone and planting and if they plan to be cutting down any of the live trees. The Commission wondered if the summer months may not be the best time to do this work due to the amount of rain we have been getting. Joanna Shapiro will ask the Land Trust the following additional information, as well; when do they plan to do the work, what is the estimated timeline, will they stabilize the bank while the vegetation is regrowing, who is doing the work, and where is the sediment going that they are dredging out of the stream.

IV. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

None, no audience in attendance at this time.

V. STAFF REPORT

Joanna Shapiro reported that 11 Tumble Brook has been making progress to be compliant and has replaced the large boulder wall with an engineered wall near the pool, and the wood that was being stacked in the wetlands has been removed. Joanna Shapiro recently walked the property and noticed erosion near the corner of the driveway that needs to be addressed, but they are moving in the right direction.

Joanna Shapiro visited the site of 44 Broadway. She reported that a driveway had been put in a long time ago, and there was a lot of damage to the driveway that needed to be repaired, which has largely been completed. There is some erosion occurring along the driveway, but they plan to fix it very soon. The house is mostly built.

A check will be issued this week to St. Joseph's College for the water quality testing they have been doing in Somers. Joanna Shapiro stated we should request check in advance for this fiscal year so it is not so last minute.

Candace Aleks made a motion to approve the staff report. Commissioner Sydney Flowers seconded. All were in favor, and the motion carried.

VI. CORRESPONDENCE AND BILLS

1. Journal Inquirer bill for \$47.22 – June public notice.

Drew Kukucka made a motion to pay the Journal Inquirer \$47.22 for the June Public Notice. Commissioner Candace Aleks seconded. All were in favor, and the motion carried.

2. Joanna Shapiro received a draft permit to DEEP from Worthington Pond for the use of pesticides and will forward it to Commission for review.

VII. MINUTES APPROVAL: June 7, 2023

Drew Kukucka made a motion to approve the minutes of June 07, 2023. Commissioner Candace Aleks seconded. All were in favor, and the motion carried.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Candace Aleks made a motion to adjourn the July 05, 2023, meeting. Drew Kukucka seconded. All were in favor, and the motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 7:59 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Commissioner Sydney Flowers, Secretary

MINUTES ARE NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL APPROVED AT A SUBSEQUENT MEETING