

**TOWN OF SOMERS**  
**Conservation Commission**  
**600 Main Street**

**REGULAR MEETING**  
**WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 2023**  
**7:00 PM TOWN HALL**  
**MINUTES**

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Joan Formeister at 7:04 P.M. Commissioners in attendance were Drew Kukucka, Dan Fraro, and Sydney Flowers. Joanna Shapiro, Town of Somers Wetlands Agent, was also present.

II. OLD BUSINESS

1. **Discussion/Possible Decision Application #795:** 39 Pheasant Run. Construction of house with septic system and associated grading within the Upland Review Area. Daniel Jasminski.

Applicant requested to table this discussion until a future meeting because they had test pits done today, and they will present a revised plan. Joanna Shapiro will also visit the site soon.

III. NEW BUSINESS

1. **Application #798:** 301 Mountain Road. Addition within Upland Review Area. Michael Monteiro.

Michael Monteiro was present and provided an updated plan and application during the meeting. Joanna Shapiro tasked Commissioners with determining whether or not this application can be received tonight or wait until the next meeting due to it being incomplete. Plans were available from the town when the culvert was put in on Mountain Road, and Mr. Monteiro hand drew on this map where an addition to the house will be built and indicated that about 560' of disturbance will occur in the Upland Review Area. The existing house is located between the stream and the proposed building site. The Commission did agree to accept the application at this meeting, but in order to get approved will need to present a better site plan that is to scale and includes topography, tree line, where the stockpile for materials will be, where strawbales will be placed, etc. T-Square Builders will be the contractors. One tree will need to be removed to provide access to the building site. There is currently a deck in place that will need to be torn down to build the addition. Mr. Monteiro can send a draft of the revised plan to Joanna Shapiro.

2. **Extension of Permit #622:** 1046 Main Street. Driveway Crossing and Grading in Upland Review Area. Natalia Khandros.

The original permit was issued in February 2010 and had been extended multiple times. The last extension had been granted in December 2018, and that permit is in effect until February 03, 2024. The Legislature keeps changing the wetland permit extension allowance, and at this point, you can now request another five-year extension, for a maximum of 19 years, which would make it in effect until February 03, 2029. Ms. Khandros did mail in the \$105 fee associated with the extension. Joanna presented the previously approved plans.

Dan Fraro made a motion to approve the Extension of Permit #622: 1046 Main Street, driveway crossing and grading in the Upland Review Area. Sydney Flowers seconded. All were in favor, and the motion carried.

Dan Fraro made a motion to add Application #799: 43 Horseshoe Lane, an addition within the Upland Review Area. Platinum Construction, LLC. Drew Kukucka seconded. All were in favor.

3. **Application #799:** 43 Horseshoe Lane. Addition within the Upland Review Area. Platinum Construction, LLC.

Platinum LLC is out of East Hamden, MA. The owner and the builder were absent from the meeting. Joanna Shapiro explained that the addition will be built approximately 80' from the existing watercourse. Joanna Shapiro visited the site today, and it does appear the stream had been straightened in the past (prior to the house being built). Currently, the stream runs along the edge of the property, and there is a lawn right up to the edge of the stream and lawn is the only vegetation on the side of the stream where the addition will be built. Downstream, the stream seems to meander more and appear more natural. The Commission discussed requiring the owner to install native buffer plantings between the stream and house and possibly instill a no-mow-zone area so that vegetation can grow. This will help decrease erosion and filtration of ground and surface water before it drains into the stream. The Commission wants to know how deep the foundation will be and whether it will interfere with the current footing drain. The contractor provided a well-thought-out plan with silt fence, straw wattles, temporary stockpile location, etc.

#### IV. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

N/A no audience in attendance at this point.

#### V. STAFF REPORT

- Joan Formeister mentioned that Scouts are always looking for conservation projects. Therefore, if we think of anything, please share it with the Commission.
- Joan Formeister brought up that she noticed that at Hurds Lake, a clearing occurred on the edge of the water recently. Joanna Shapiro will ask the town about this.
- Joanna Shapiro updated the Commission on the possible violation at 1027 Main Street. Joanna had sent two emails with no response and then sent a postal letter (Notice of Violation) after the Commission's last meeting. Joanna heard back on Tuesday, 10/31/23, and was provided with a new phone number and email address. The property owner is out of state today, so couldn't attend this meeting but will be at the December meeting. The owner asked Joanna how to get a site plan, and Joanna informed the owner that one is available in the land use office with the wetland delineation marked. The Commission will likely need to handle this as an enforcement item based on the violation.
- Joanna Shapiro reported that several building permit applications have been coming in with no or little detail regarding erosion control, etc., and she continuously reminds them to add to the plans.
- Joanna Shapiro reported that a number of crumbling foundation permits are coming in, but none regarding wetlands other than the one that was discussed last month.
- Joanna Shapiro reported that realtors have been reaching out with questions regarding the property for sale at 336 Mountain Road. The property is very wet, and test pits were done a while ago. This may come in future meetings.

Drew Kukucka made a motion to approve the staff report. Sydney Flowers seconded. All were in favor, and the motion carried.

## VI. CORRESPONDENCE AND BILLS

No bills.

Joanna Shapiro reported that a DEEP Notice came in yesterday regarding notice for stakeholder input and engagement regarding pesticides. Joanna will forward further information to the Commission.

Joanna Shapiro reported that she needed to provide input regarding draining 109,000 gallons of water from the bumper boat attraction at Sonny's Plan on Main Street. The water is treated, and the Director of Public Health did not foresee an issue with discharging the water into the ground after the water is neutralized (chemicals and pH must be neutralized). Joanna requested that discharge be no closer than 100' from the Scantic River and drain slowly so no erosion occurs. The Commission was concerned regarding the oversight of this and if it has to be done every year.

## VII. MINUTES APPROVAL: October 4, 2023

Dan Fraro made a motion to approve the minutes of October 04, 2023. Drew Kukucka seconded. All were in favor, and the motion carried.

## VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Drew Kukucka made a motion to adjourn the November 01, 2023, meeting. Dan Fraro seconded. All were in favor, and the motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 8:41 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Commissioner Sydney Flowers, Secretary

MINUTES ARE NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL APPROVED AT A SUBSEQUENT MEETING