

Town of Somers
Conservation Commission
600 Main Street
Somers, CT 06071

March 31, 2021

RE: Application #740; 50 Hangdog Lane

Dear Sirs/Madame's

As a resident of Cooksvilles I have a vested interest in changes regarding drainage to the area as the above application will do of approved. For the purpose of "adding a driveway and repairing drainage", the above application was submitted on 10/29/2020, then revised on 1/26/21 and again on 2/18/21. This is a threefold issue for me, the first being that there is no building permit issued for this property so a "driveway" to nowhere seems an unreasonable request when allowing such a request would have an irreversible impact to these fragile inland wetlands that our state, our town through their commissions, and our citizens are bound to uphold and protect. To alter a wetland or watercourse for no valid reason will have an adverse effect not only on our Cooksvilles community but to the lands that surround us as well as our wildlife that are dependent on these exact systems. As you know, these wetlands and waterways are all interconnected, dependent on one another for their health and welfare regardless of how big or how small.

Secondly, the applicant provided no "feasible and prudent alternative" as required by the rules and regulations of our state, in his original document #4 dated 10/29/2020, it was simply left blank. The importance of this piece is not only necessary but crucial for any commission to review and base a prudent opinion on. There must be certainty that no other option exist that could mitigate any impact to our wetlands. Applicants revised response on 1/26/2021 #4 stated an option but further said a "driveway from the frontage would be very steep +1-15%" and that a "paved driveway that already exists for applicants use" being the better option. However, this paved driveway has grades between 14.1% and 20.3% at their highest peaks and that those higher grades exist at a blind corner. From these numbers it would certainly appear a prudent alternate that does not compromise the wetlands does exist and would also appear to be a more workable option based on grading.

Thirdly, applicant proposes to repair drainage by a connection of piping to some existing pipes further downhill. My concern here is the pipes referred to downhill as well as the grass swales are currently at peak overflow, some directly across from my property, with any heavy rains and melting ice flooding and erosion on the roadways and lands down from these drains/pipes are a common occurrence. As they are already overloaded adding more drainage would be a massive mistake. There must be a feasible comprehensive drainage plan in place for the entire Cooksville area as they too are interconnected. If there is this type of plan in place it might be prudent to review.

For these reasons I urge the commission to deny Application #740 and protect our natural resources.

Sincerely,

Deirdre Barbeau
66 Hangdog Lane
Somers, CT 06071