TOWN OF SOMERS
Conservation Commission
600 Main Street

REGULAR MEETING
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2026
7:00 PM TOWN HALL
MINUTES

I. CALL TO ORDER –
Chairperson Joan Formeister called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. The commissioners in attendance were Drew Kukucka, Dan Fraro, and Candace Aleks. Joanna Shapiro, the Town of Somers Wetlands Agent, was also present.

Candy made, and Drew seconded, a motion to add Application 835: 54 Twinbrook Drive. Construction of shed and grading/site work in the Upland Review Area to the agenda under new business.

II. OLD BUSINESS

1. **Discussion/Possible Decision Application #833: 120 Scully Rd.** New house with associated grading and drainage in the Upland Review Area. Adam Patsun.

   Wetland agent Shapiro reported that she visited the site, and described the site as being primarily a meadow of goldenrod and asters. The wetland area contained Catalpa trees, which were threatened by invasive oriental bittersweet, as well as a small population of multiflora rose which should be controlled to preserve the wetland area. The Commission also discussed the placement of permanent wetland monuments, per their standards, at the limit of disturbance to prevent future wetland encroachment.

   Candace Aleks made a motion to approve wetland permit #833, with the conditions that:

   1-The silt fence will be the limit of disturbance, and noted as such on the plan

   2-Developer is to install at least 2 permanent wetland boundary markers where silt fence is located, as marked by the wetland agent on the map

   3-Developer shall control the invasive plants in the wetland and adjacent 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 and there is substantial evidence in the record to support this finding.

   Drew Kukucka seconded. All in favor. Motion carried.

Candace Aleks made a motion to move New Business up to this part of the agenda, and continue Old Business after. Drew seconded. All in favor. Motion Carried.

III. NEW BUSINESS

1. **Application #835: 54 Twinbrook Drive.** Construction of shed and grading/site work in the Upland Review Area. Trevor Dufault.

   Wetland Agent Shapiro explained how this application arose yesterday, after the building official observed construction occurring without a wetland permit. She explained that while the building is small, it is very close to the regulated watercourse/wetland, and it appears as though significant site work has occurred both adjacent to and within the watercourse, and she felt it was best to start with an application for the shed and try to clear up all of the work that was done, without knowledge that permitting was needed.

   The Commission asked about access to the shed. Mr. Dufault explained that he has a dirt path from the road, and from the house there is a small old timber bridge that he sometimes walks over.

   He described the location of the shed, and how there are no other suitable locations for the shed based on the configuration of his lot. He also graded the area with a tractor to level it, and placed crushed stone for the shed to be placed on top of. He removed a few dead pine trees, but otherwise there was minimal clearing. The soil is pretty compact now, and is graded, and he has not had runoff issues.

   Wetland Agent Shapiro asked about work done previously in the watercourse area. Mr. Dufault explained that he placed rock along the sides of the watercourse, but did not change the path of it. He placed 6-8" river rock on the bank, and dug the stream out so that water could pass through where it was previously clogged. It is still traveling in the same direction. That work was only for approximately 40' of the length of the watercourse. He used a hand shovel to dig out the area.

   Shapiro asked about other work on the site, including a large area of stone between the house and the stream, and also a pile of trees. He explained that he built up the slope of the lawn and added stone to retain it, and also explained that he had a number of dead pine trees.

   Shapiro distributed aerial photos from 2023-present, showing the work that has been done.

   Drew Kukucka explained that he is not alarmed by the shed itself, but that the work on the site warrants a site visit with the wetland agent to determine what else is needed. Wetland Agent Shapiro mentioned that in trying to think of a form of mitigation for the work that has been done and is in process, a planting along the stream may be beneficial. Mr. Dufault was amenable to that suggestion. Shapiro will reach out to set up a site visit.

2. **Jurisdictional Ruling/Application #834: 71 Green Tree Lane.** Forest mulching of brush and removal of 10 trees in the Upland Review Area. Sean Shimansky.

   The property owner was unable to attend tonight's meeting, so Shapiro presented the application and plan. Discussion was held regarding scope of work and whether it meets the incidental landscaping exemption. There were questions from the Commission regarding the need to remove trees, including trees that were alive, and the reason to clear all of the undergrowth, including on both sides of the stream. Shapiro explained that some of the trees

were concerning to the property owner, as they may potentially hit the house if they fall. There was also confusion regarding the standing trees to be cut and removed versus already downed trees to be removed.

The Commission provided thoughts for Shapiro to convey to the property owner, to clarify his plan and application, including:

- Use a clearer leaf-off aerial to more accurately depict the site and proposed work.
- Revise the plan to depict the accurate stream location and the limits of the area of forest mulching rather than the yellow dots, and revise the areas of the green dots to reflect actual locations for proposed tree cutting.
- Include planting language, what will be planted, and where. Specify if native plants will be used, and the type of plants (low-growing shrubs, groundcovers, herbaceous).
- Clarify if forest mulching will be completed on both sides of the stream, and if so, provide rationale
- Clarify if the brook will be crossed, and how
- Clarify language in the application regarding stone placement in the stream (limited to replacing existing stones)
- Provide photos to better depict areas to be cleared, and tag trees to be removed.

3. **Approval of 2027 Meeting Schedule**

Candy made a motion to approve the proposed meeting dates for 2027. Drew seconded. Motion carried.

II. OLD BUSINESS ***(continued from above)***

2. SHOW CAUSE HEARING (continued) - ORDER TO CEASE AND CORRECT VIOLATION. 47 Old Hampden Road. Site Work causing Erosion and Sedimentation of Watercourse. Juliano Family One LLC.

Wetland Agent Shapiro explained that the property owner did not have anything new to present tonight, and promised E&S and stormwater plans by the end of next week, and discussed presenting the plans at the December 2 regular meeting.

Shapiro also explained that related to this, following the site walk she discussed the erosion along the road and the brook with Todd Rolland, DPW director, that are related to road drainage issues. He stated that he would review the area with his foreman, and will provide a plan. Joan Formeister asked that Todd Rolland revisit the site as soon as possible, and come up with a plan, and present it to Shapiro for approval prior to proceeding.

Drew observed that there are multiple avenues of stormwater runoff coming off of the site and the road that must be considered. Drew also expressed that he had anticipated being able to visit 47 Old Hampden Rd, and was frustrated that the commission was not allowed on the property. The 47 Old Hampden Rd site and the commission's order tie into the features that were observed during the site walk, and are in their purview. Drew acknowledged that the site seems to be in better condition than previously, and is hopeful that the plans will provide better clarity. The engineer's intent is to fully contain runoff within the active site work portion of the site.

Shapiro explained that the tentative plan is for presentation of the plans at the December 2 meeting.

IV. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION - *Items not on the agenda or coming before the commission*

None

V. STAFF REPORT

Shapiro reported:

- She and two members of the Commission attended the Special BOS meeting on 10/22, at which Land Use Director Jeff Catlet and Attorney Mike Ziska presented on Land Use procedures. There was discussion of possibly having Ziska present to individual commissions as well.
- 211 Field Road – Shapiro received an inquiry regarding a possible 2-lot subdivision on a wet lot, which would require access to both lots from the same area of frontage to avoid crossing a large wetland area. This will have to come before the Commission for approval.
- CACIWC conference is on 11/14, both Shapiro and Sydney Flowers are attending.
- New legislation for 2026 requires all Inland Wetland Commission members to complete the CT DEEP wetland training program by the end of the year. More information to follow.

Candace made, and Dan seconded, a motion to accept the staff report. Motion carried.

VI. CORRESPONDENCE AND BILLS

None

VII. MINUTES APPROVAL: October 7, 2026 regular meeting and October 29, 2026 special meeting/site walk

Drew Kukucka made a motion to approve the October 7, 2026 regular meeting minutes as presented, Candace Aleks seconded. Motion carried.

Drew Kukucka made a motion to approve the October 29, 2026 special meeting/site walk minutes as presented, Candace seconded. Motion carried.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Candace Aleks made, and Dan Fraro seconded, a motion to adjourn at 9:29pm. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted, Joanna Shapiro
MINUTES ARE NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL APPROVED AT A SUBSEQUENT MEETING