

TOWN OF WILBRAHAM
240 Springfield Street
Wilbraham, Massachusetts 01095
(413) 596-2800, EXT. 204



WILBRAHAM CONSERVATION COMMISSION

MEETING MINUTES FROM MARCH 28, 2016

The Conservation Commission meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM

Members present: Christopher Brown; Chairman, George Reich, Jim Roberts, Tom Reavey, Paul Ekness and Stoughton Smead

Staff: Melissa Graves, Administrative Assistant

7:05 PM Town of Wilbraham – Bruer Pond Dredging Project Notice of Intent

Present: Tonya Basch, Assistant Director of Public Works

This hearing was continued from the public meeting of February 22, 2016 pending comments from Massachusetts Natural Heritage. The Conservation Commission received comments from Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program on February 23rd and as the work is proposed, it will not adversely affect the actual Resource Area of Habitat of state-protected rare wildlife species. In addition, NHESP determined the project as proposed will not result in a prohibited “take” of any state-listed rare species.

The 401 Water Quality comments have not been received yet but it should not affect the issuance of the Order of Conditions. A copy of the comments will be included in the file when it is received.

Motion: George Reich, close the public hearing and issue an Order of Conditions within 21 days
2nd: Jim Roberts

Unanimously in favor: George Reich, Jim Roberts, Tom Reavey, Paul Ekness and Stoughton Smead

Request for Use of Public Property

- **Granby Regional Horse Council McDonald Nature Preserve October 23, 2016**

Motion: George Reich, approve the event at the Preserve on October 23, 2016

2nd: Jim Roberts

Unanimously in favor: George Reich, Jim Roberts, Tom Reavey, Paul Ekness and Stoughton Smead

- **Friends of Recreation McDonald Nature Preserve May 1, 2016**

Motion: George Reich, approve the event at the Preserve on May 1, 2016

2nd: Jim Roberts

Unanimously in favor: George Reich, Jim Roberts, Tom Reavey, Paul Ekness and Stoughton Smead

Appointment Wendy Armstrong

Ms. Armstrong received a bluebird house as a gift and doesn't have a suitable place on her property to hang the house in order to attract bluebirds. She would like to place the house at the Rice Nature Preserve because it is a much better location. The Conservation Commission agreed that the location would be ideal and a memo should be sent to the Minnechaug Land Trust indicating the recommendation.

Appointment Marlene Falvey & Helen Ham

Ms. Ham and Ms. Falvey came to meeting this evening to discuss certifying a potential vernal pool on the property known as Shady Lane, a parcel that was recently donated to the Town. There has been recent fairy shrimp activity in the pool according to forester Michelle Wilson and should be protected. A lengthy conversation continued regarding the trail that wasn't there when the land was donated, the new neighbor who continues to cut and clear the trail and protecting the vernal pool. The Commission agreed to go to the property prior to the next meeting to assess the conditions of the site.

Wetland Survey Request University of Massachusetts

A letter was received from the Department of Environmental Conservation at UMass requesting that the Conservation Commission grant approval for a wetlands survey on the property known as 288R Three Rivers Road. This will be a vegetation survey only consisting of 4 transects and every plant that that intersects a transit will be identified and its abundance documented in the field. For species that cannot be identified in the field, samples will be collected for lab identification. All flagging will be removed at the end of the project and is projected to take place June-October of 2016.

Motion: Stoughton Smead, approve the request for the wetlands survey by UMass
2nd: Paul Ekness

In favor: Jim Roberts, Tom Reavey, Paul Ekness and Stoughton Smead

Abstained: George Reich

Update Twelve Mile Brook West (Wildlife Management Project)

Rocky Mountain Wood is about 90% done with only hand work to be done along the trail, street and parking areas. The Commission agreed to go to the site on April 9th to observe the progress.

Update Twelve Mile Brook East (Forest Management Project)

The Conservation Commission received 1 bid for the project at Twelve Mile Brook East for the harvest project. The bid was \$1000 from Tetreault & Son. Forester Carmine Angeloni indicated that the bid is very low compared to the harvest product value on the site. The key is the health of the forest, not necessarily the money received for the project. However, Carmine and the Commission felt that if the specs were modified we may receive more bids.

Motion: George Reich, reject the 1 bid submitted for the Twelve Mile Brook project and re-advertise the bid specs with some modifications

2nd: Paul Ekness

Unanimously in favor: George Reich, Jim Roberts, Tom Reavey, Paul Ekness and Stoughton Smead

Having no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:00 PM. The Conservation Commission will reconvene at its next scheduled meeting on Monday, March 28, 2016 at 7:00 PM.

Submitted:

Approved As To Form And Content:

Melissa Graves, Administrative Assistant

Christopher Brown, Chairman

Date: _____

Date: _____