

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



WILBRAHAM CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes from January 11, 2021

Members present via GoToMeeting #506457053 and being recorded: Chris Brown; Chairman, Robert McMaster, Alice Colman, and Jim Roberts

Staff: Melissa Graves

Request for Extension of an Order of Conditions Bennett Pond

On behalf of the applicants, Solitude Lake Management is requesting an extension to the issued Order of Conditions for the continuing management of Bennett Pond. Solitude Lake Management has been managing Bennett Pond annually for a decade. According to their submittal, prudent pond management is an ongoing endeavor, requiring constant assessment and monitoring. The goal of the management program is to maintain open water habitat and maintain beneficial algal growth. Since management began, tasks for Bennett Pond have included herbicide treatments and algaecide treatments as necessary to reduce impairments associated with invasive aquatic plant growth and excessive algal growth.

No significant changes to the program are proposed during the next three-year period.

Motion: Jim Roberts, approve the extension request for the pond management at Bennett Pond for 3 years
2nd: Robert McMaster

In Favor: (Roll Call Vote): Chris Brown, Robert McMaster, Alice Colman, and Jim Roberts

Right of First Refusal 186V Tinkham Road

This is an ongoing discussion and below is the information relating to this site that has been discussed in a previous meeting as well as this meeting.

The owner of this parcel has a Purchase and Sale Agreement with a private party. The land which consists of approximately 87.55 acres is currently under a Chapter 61A lien. The P & S agreement indicates that Sky Solar, Inc. intends to develop the site for use a ground mounted solar energy system. The purchase price would be \$575,000. All land that is Chapter 61 status is subject to the Town waiving its right for first refusal. The Board of Selectmen is the ultimate deciding vote but petitions all pertinent committees and boards for opinions. This site is adjacent to the Rice Nature Preserve as well as other Town-owned parcels. According to the GIS program, it appears that there a substantial wetlands and at least two streams within the site. It also appears to have steep elevation changes. At this point, there are far too many questions regarding the development of the site to make any kind of decision regarding the ROFR. The Commission agreed to table the discussion pending responses from other boards and committees.

Forest Cutting Plan McDonald Nature Preserve

No updates at this time

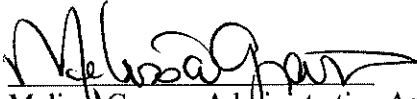
Request for Certification of Compliance 843 Glendale Road

Tabled pending further information from applicant

Having no further business, a motion was made to adjourn at 5:45 PM. The Conservation Commission will reconvene at its next scheduled meeting on January 25, 2021 at 5:00 PM.

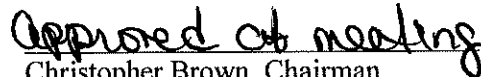
Submitted:

Approved As To Form And Content:



Melissa Graves, Administrative Assistant

Date: 3/8/2021



Christopher Brown, Chairman

Date: 3/8/2021