

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



WILBRAHAM CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes from May 22, 2023

Members Present: Christopher Brown (7:26), Robert McMaster, William Meeker, Stoughton Smead, James Murphy, Alice Colman, Associate Member James Coletta

Staff: Melissa Graves

7:00 PM Enforcement Order 1 Circle Drive

Present: Rita Panasian & Ben White – Dukes Landscaping

An Enforcement Order was issued to the owner of this parcel as well as the contractor that performed the work by Conservation Commission Chairman Christopher Brown. The work included cutting and removing trees and vegetation from within the buffer zone of Bordering Vegetated Wetlands resulting in unstable ground sloping to the wetlands. Mr. White takes responsibility for the removal of the trees. He claims they were all hazard trees including 4 white pines and 1 spruce. Stumps were cut flush to grade. Proposed is a New England wetland mix, blueberry bushes, swamp azalea, spice bush, silt fence. Nothing that gets too big to threaten the house in the future. Brush was removed from wetland area, chips remained. Existing French drain doesn't appear to be operational. Place the erosion control as soon as possible.

Motion: Alice Colman, ratify the Enforcement Order issued to Rita and Dukes LLC

2nd: Bill Meeker

In Favor: Robert McMaster, William Meeker, Stoughton Smead, James Murphy, Alice Colman

Materials Referenced: WPA Form 9 - Enforcement Order

7:15 PM Notice of Intent 337 Maynard Road

Project: Garage Addition and On-Site Septic System Repair

The applicant has requested a continuation of this hearing pending completion of the mitigation plan. A DEP File # has not been issued as of this meeting.

Motion: William Meeker, continue the public hearing until June 12, 2023 at 7:15 PM

2nd: James Murphy

In Favor: Robert McMaster, William Meeker, Stoughton Smead, James Murphy, Alice Colman

Material Referenced: WPA Form 3 – Notice of Intent

Request for Certificate of Compliance 12 Willow Brook Lane

This request was put on hold until the grass was more established in the rear yard. Silt fence is still in place and grass is appearing to fill in a little. Organic soil was put down in areas where the soil was not favorable to growing grass.

Motion: Stoughton Smead, issue the Certificate of Compliance for 12 Willow Brook Lane

2nd: Robert McMaster

In Favor: Robert McMaster, William Meeker, Stoughton Smead, James Murphy, Alice Colman

Material Referenced: WPA Form 8 – Certificate of Compliance

Request for Certificate of Compliance 269 Stony Hill Road (Wilbraham Commons)

This project was originally approved in 1980 and was subsequently extended twice afterwards. The project was partially complete in 1983 and was issued a Partial Certificate of Compliance at that time. The entire project was completed several years later but a COC was not requested. This request is to clear up the documents recorded at the Registry of Deeds.

Motion: Alice Colman, issue the Certificate of Compliance to 269 Stony Hill Road

2nd: James Murphy

In Favor: Robert McMaster, William Meeker, Stoughton Smead, James Murphy, Alice Colman

Material Referenced: WPA Form 8A – Request for Certificate of Compliance and WPA Form 8B – Certificate of Compliance

Minutes: April 24, 2023

Motion: Bill Meeker, accept the minutes as written

2nd: James Murphy

In Favor: Robert McMaster, William Meeker, Stoughton Smead, James Murphy, Alice Colman

**Land Management Plan
Preserve**

Expansion of the McDonald Nature

Motion: Alice Colman, approve the Fee Acquisition Land Management Plan for the expansion of the McDonald Nature Preserve and have Conservation Commission members present sign the document

2nd: Stoughton Smead

In Favor: Robert McMaster, William Meeker, Stoughton Smead, James Murphy, Alice Colman

12 Mile Brook Flooding, Dam, Bridge and Beavers

Present: Tracey Plantier & Jay Taylor, Open Space and Rec Committee Members

The bridge at 12 Mile Brook is not accessible to hikers because of the recent beaver activity downstream of the bridge. A dam has been constructed and has flooded the entire area on both sides of the bridge. The concrete footings for the bridge are under water and may become unstable if they continue to be saturated. There has been discussion about installing pond levelers to try and keep the water flowing without flooding the area. A Community Preservation application was submitted and approved at the town meeting in May for the money to pay for the levelers. The levelers will be installed after the stream is back to a normal depth.

Motion: Stoughton Smead, authorize Chris Brown to draft a letter to the Board of Health to breach dam and remove beavers.

2nd: William Meeker

In Favor: Robert McMaster, William Meeker, Stoughton Smead, James Murphy, Alice Colman

Motion: Stoughton Smead, authorize the amount of \$2000 for trapping of beavers at 12 Mile Brook property


2nd: James Murphy

In favor: Robert McMaster, William Meeker, Stoughton Smead, James Murphy, Alice Colman

The members of the Conservation Commission discussed changing the meetings to the 2nd Monday and the 4th Tuesday of the month for at least the summer months beginning in June. The next scheduled meeting will be on Monday, June 12, 2023 & then Tuesday, June 27, 2023.

Having no further business, a motion was made and seconded to adjourn at 8:47 p.m.

Submitted:



Melissa Graves, Administrative Assistant

Date: 6/12/23

Approved As To Form And Content:



Christopher Brown, Chairman

Date: 6/16/23

