

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



WILBRAHAM CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes from June 12, 2023

Members Present: Christopher Brown, Robert McMaster, James Murphy, Cathy Lawless, Bill Meeker (7:33) Associate Member James Coletta

Staff: Melissa Graves

- 7:00 PM Appointment Lawrence Cook**
285 Three Rivers Rd – Ground Mount Solar/Modification to Plan
Present: NO SHOW
This matter was tabled pending contacting the applicant and setting up the appointment for the next scheduled meeting.
- 7:10 PM Enforcement Order 1 Circle Drive**
Present: Ben White
The resident and the contractor were issued an Enforcement Order from the Conservation Commission for the cutting and removal of several trees within the buffer zone of BVW. At the last meeting of the Commission, Mr. White presented a planting plan to replace the trees that were removed. The Commission requested a more detailed plan for the next meeting and to install erosion control measures as soon as possible. The erosion controls were installed and a new updated plan was presented at this meeting. Planting has not been done yet. Will be over seeded with wetland seed mix. Revisit the site September 26th to observe the plantings.

Materials Referenced: WPA Form 9 – Enforcement Order, Planting Plan in an email dated May 24, 2023
- 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. The project was issued DEP File #341-0385.
Motion: James Murphy, continue the public hearing until June 27, 2023 at 7:05 PM
2nd: Robert McMaster
In Favor: Robert McMaster, Chris Brown, James Murphy, and Cathy Lawless

7:20 PM Request for Determination of Applicability

Eversource Gas of MA

Project: Gas Main on Main St (McIntosh to Tinkham Rd)

Present: Becky Weisman, SWCA

The work will be within the existing paved roadway layout on the west side of Main Street. It will be approximately 2,840 linear feet of 6-inch medium pressure polyethylene gas main. It will connect two existing gas lines. Approximately 2,190 linear feet of pipe will be installed via conventional open trenching/direct bury methods. The trench will be approximately 58" deep by 30" wide. Some spoils will be reused on site. Will truck any excess spoils off-site and no tree removal is proposed. Piping will go under large tree in front of Rices Farm Stand vs. removing the tree. Minor buffer zone project for utilities. Best Management Practices for erosion controls will be in place and weekly inspections will be made.

Four HDD (horizontal directional drills) are required as part of the project to cross culverts and avoiding sensitive resource areas. The HDD method is a trenchless method avoiding surface disturbances. They will have environmental monitors during the process. Will be done in steps to fill in the trenches daily when possible.

Motion: Cathy Lawless, issue a Negative #3 and Positive #5 with conditions of utilizing filter sock erosion controls in place as needed & following work as requested in RDA, follow recommendation from DPW

2nd: James Murphy

In Favor: Robert McMaster, James Murphy, Cathy Lawless, Chris Brown

Abstained: William Meeker

Materials Referenced: WPA Form 1 – Request for Determination of Applicability and associated maps, WPA Form 2 – Determination of Applicability

Minutes: May 22, 2023

Motion: Cathy Lawless, approve the minutes as written

2nd: Bill Meeker

In Favor: Robert McMaster, William Meeker, James Murphy, Cathy Lawless

**Conservation Restriction Expansion of McDonald Nature Preserve
Signatures Required**

Motion: William Meeker, I move to approve in the public interest and grant the Conservation Restriction for the McDonald Nature Preserve Expansion – Wilbraham CR #8 to the Minnechaug Land Trust, Inc., pursuant to Section 32 of Chapter 184 of the Massachusetts General Laws

2nd: Cathy Lawless

In Favor: Robert McMaster, William Meeker, Cathy Lawless, James Murphy,

**Conservation Restriction Gleason Conservation Area
Signatures Required**

Motion: William Meeker, I move to approve in the public interest and grant the Conservation Restriction for the Gleason Conservation Area – Wilbraham CR #9 to the Minnechaug Land Trust, Inc., pursuant to Section 32 of Chapter 184 of the Massachusetts General Laws

2nd: Cathy Lawless

In Favor: Robert McMaster, William Meeker, James Murphy, Cathy Lawless

Discussions

Sawmill Pond Accessible Trail

After consideration, the Open Space & Recreation Committee would like to create an accessible trail at the Sawmill Pond Conservation Area. The project will be developed by Melissa Graves for a Community Preservation Project similar to the trail at Thayer Brook. The length of the trail is approximately the same as Thayer Brook at .7 of a mile that would go along an existing trail around the parcel. The trail would have access to the existing fishing locations.

Thayer Brook Easy Trail Maintenance and New Connector Trail

After meeting with Meg Bandarra from Unpaved Trails for All, she made some recommendations for the maintenance of the Easy Trail.

The drainage at the beginning of the trail has always been an issue and been fixed on several occasions. Re-grading that section will need to be done to level it and eliminate the slope. There is one section that is relatively steep. There is an area that can be developed that will be less steep. Brush clearing and a new stone path will need to be constructed. Other areas along the trail need normal maintenance like brush cutting along the edges and new stone dust applied and compacted.

This maintenance and materials should be estimated at \$5000.00.

Motion: William Meeker, approve up to \$6000 for the improvements to the Thayer Brook Trail according to the email from Meg

2nd: Bill Meeker

In favor: Robert McMaster, William Meeker, James Murphy, Cathy Lawless

Deer Hunting Season – 2023

Discussion and Motion Required

Motion: Cathy Lawless, allow hunting on 9 parcels of Town owned land for bow hunting only

2nd: Robert McMaster

In Favor: Robert McMaster, William Meeker, Cathy Lawless, James Murphy,

Request 975 Stony Hill Road

The owner and developer of this parcel are requesting to use Filtrex Erosion Socks vs. hay/straw bales for the required erosion control measures. The site is gently sloping towards the riverfront. May require the removal of small brush to install the erosion controls.


Motion: Cathy Lawless, authorize the use of 12” filter sock and silt fence

2nd: Bill Meeker

In Favor: Robert McMaster, William Meeker, Cathy Lawless, James Murphy,

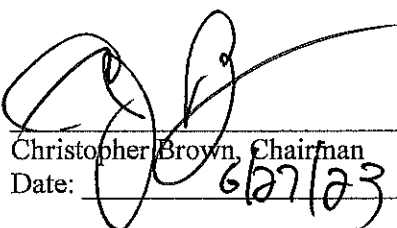
Having no further business, a motion was made and seconded to adjourn at 8:23 p.m. The next scheduled meeting is Tuesday, June 27, 2023

Submitted:



Melissa Grayes, Administrative Assistant
Date: 6/27/23

Approved As To Form And Content:



Christopher Brown, Chairman
Date: 6/27/23