

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



**WILBRAHAM CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

**Meeting Minutes from August 29, 2023**

**Members Present:** Chairman Christopher Brown, William Meeker, Stoughton Smead, Alice Colman, James Murphy and Associate Member James Coletta

**Staff:** Melissa Graves

**7:00 PM Request for Extension of Order of Conditions Bundled Notice of Intent  
Town of Wilbraham Engineering**  
**Present:** Dena Grochmal: TOW Engineer/GIS Coordinator  
The Wilbraham Engineering Department submitted the 2023-2024 plan showing a list of paving, flood prevention, outfalls and catch basin replacements. Ms. Grochmal indicated that they will start assessing culverts this year with a grant. Some culverts may need repairs or upgrades.  
**Motion:** James Murphy, extend the Order of Conditions for one year  
**2<sup>nd</sup>:** William Meeker  
**In Favor:** William Meeker, Stoughton Smead, Alice Colman, James Murphy

**7:05 PM Request for Extension of Order of Conditions Federal Lane/Main Street  
Town of Wilbraham Engineering**  
**Present:** Dena Grochmal: TOW Engineer/GIS Coordinator  
There is ongoing preventative maintenance along the Federal Lane/Main Street stream area. DPW needs to go in and pick up a tree that fell into the stream to prevent upstream flooding. If possible and it's not an emergency the work can be done during the winter months when the ground is frozen.  
**Motion:** William Meeker, extend the Order of Conditions for three years  
**2<sup>nd</sup>:** James Murphy  
**In Favor:** William Meeker, Stoughton Smead, Alice Colman, James Murphy

**Other Business**

**Request for Certificate of Compliance 22 Herrick Place**  
As part of the sale of this property, the current owners are requesting a final Certificate of Compliance for work that was completed 1995. This lot was part of a subdivision and was included in the Order of Conditions that was issued by the Conservation Commission to the developer. This lot has a wetland area to the north of the site but all the work was a minimum of 200' from any wetland.  
**Motion:** Alice Colman, issue a Certificate of Compliance for DEP File 341-185 for 22 Herrick Place  
**2<sup>nd</sup>:** James Murphy  
**In Favor:** William Meeker, Stoughton Smead, Alice Colman, James Murphy

**Minutes: July 25, 2023**

**Motion:** Stoughton Smead, accept the minutes as written

**2<sup>nd</sup>:** William Meeker

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

**Emergency Certificate      Patriot Hydro/Red Bridge Structure**

A large portion of a Wilbraham power plant collapsed Tuesday morning. The collapse sent a small amount of mineral oil into the water near the Wilbraham-Ludlow town line, which feeds directly into the Chicopee River. It was reported that there is no health threat to the public. DEP was on the scene after being reported to them. Mitigation was implemented by putting booms in the water to contain the oil and DEP also has a contractor that's going to remove any of the debris that's in the water.

The contractors will have to remove the portion of the building to assess the damage. A portable dam will be placed to divert water away from the building. Wilbraham Conservation Commission member William Meeker issued an Emergency Certificate for the work. A 60-day permit was issued since DEP confirmed that it was a case of Immediate Response Action to address an oil/hazardous material release. An access road has been cut in on the Red Bridge side with sand/trap rock to access the building.

Patriot Hydro is on site at all time. Environmental Services has been on site as well. There is a meeting scheduled for Wednesday, August 30 on-site and William Meeker and James Murphy will be attending.

**Motion:** Stoughton Smead, ratify the Emergency Certificate to the owner of the property that was issued on August 23, 2023

**2<sup>nd</sup>:** Alice Colman

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

**Site Visit Request      DEP      2571 Boston Road**

Chris went to the site and saw some vegetation cut. Send a letter to owner reminding them to not cut near the pond. Invite them to the next meeting.

**Order of Conditions/Special Conditions      2689 Boston Road**

This project was approved at the July 25, 2023 meeting of the Conservation Commission. It includes placement of materials to create a beach that historically existed before it became overgrown.

**Motion:** Stoughton Smead, issue the special Conditions as discussed and amended for DEP File 341-0386

**2<sup>nd</sup>:** Alice Colman

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

**Tree Removal Request (Update)                      15 Westwood**


Chris met with Dave Graziano. The lot appeared to have fence damage from a branches that fell adjacent to the property. The tree is large and about 50' from property line. It does not appear to be an imminent danger to damage house. Chris will make contact with Dave again to see if he has made any decision on cutting the tree down completely. The issue with the site, is that there is not an easy way to access the trees.

**Discussion                      124 & 42V Maynard Road**

This property was donated to the Town of Wilbraham in 2001 as permanent conservation land to be administered by the Conservation Commission. The recorded deed states that the land is to remain prominently in its natural state except for conservation, outdoor recreation or other related purpose. The idea of having the site cleaned up for a picnic/kayak launch area was discussed briefly as a Community Preservation Project. The property is being taken over by invasive species including knotweed and several trees appear to be hazardous. The adjacent neighbor was present and claimed several tree branches hit her property since she purchased her property several years ago. The site also appears to have encroachment from the neighbor with a temporary coverall. Mura, the neighbor, has also manicured the adjacent properties with mowing and plantings. She offered to take down the structure within a few months since it is full of items. The Commission will take a walk out to the site to observe the possible encroachment as well as the possibility of the picnic area on the conservation land.

Having no further business, a motion was made and seconded to adjourn at 9:30 PM.

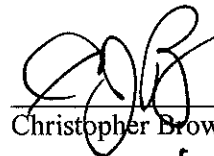
Submitted:

  
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Melissa Graves, Administrative Assistant

Date: 9/26/23

Approved As To Form And Content:

  
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Christopher Brown, Chairman

Date: 9/26/23