

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



WILBRAHAM CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes from September 11, 2023

Members Present: Chairman Christopher Brown, Stoughton Smead, Alice Colman, James Murphy, Robert McMaster and Associate Member James Coletta

Staff: Melissa Graves

7:00 PM Patriot Hydro – Red Bridge Dame Update and Anticipated Work

Present: Debby Lemay; Berkshire Environmental Consultants & Skip Medford; Patriot Hydro

Conservation Commission members Christopher Brown and James Murphy went to the site this afternoon to participate in the group meeting between the owners of the hydro plant, engineers and environmental consultants. The project is currently under a 60 day Emergency Certificate from the Conservation Commission. Debby Lemay spoke with Mike McCue at DEP for guidance towards the next steps at the dam. Ms. Lemay requested some flexibility with the project given the scope of work changing along the way depending on what is hidden beneath the debris at the site. Ms. Lemay indicated that DEP can extend the EO for 30 days at a time. Chris will confirm this with Mike McCue.

A temporary coffer dam is in the process of being erected to hold the water from coming in towards the dam. The original dam was breached last week after the water was pumped out. The site needs to be stabilized prior to any work on the collapsed building. Dewatering will continue after the newly installed coffer dam is complete.

Skip Medford indicated there are no other materials released into the waterway since the original mineral oil. Testing has been done on windows, doors, etc for asbestos.

All water flow has been discontinued through the hydro dam but the Chicopee River is continuing to flow over the other spillway.

The goal is to salvage the dam and continue the use for a hydro power dam. Updates will be submitted as needed.

Other Business

***The appointment with Kathy Petruzzulli regarding the Whitford/Herrick Place Ponds was postponed to the next meeting. She called earlier in the day to indicate that she could not attend the meeting. Information related to the site was handed out to the Commission members present so they could visit the site prior to the next meeting.

Minutes: August 29, 2023

Motion: Stoughton Smead, accept the minutes as discussed and amended

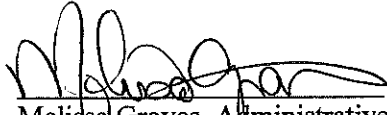
2nd: James Murphy

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

Emergency Certificate – Patriot Hydro (Red Bridge Dam) Amendment
As discussed at this meeting, the Commission agreed that no amendment was necessary at this time to the issued Emergency Certificate.

Having no further business, a motion was made and seconded to adjourn at 8:05 PM.

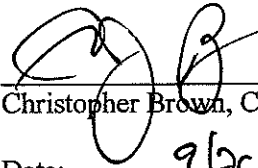
Submitted:



Melissa Graves, Administrative Assistant

Date: 9/26/23

Approved As To Form And Content:



Christopher Brown, Chairman

Date: 9/26/23