

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



WILBRAHAM CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes from September 26, 2023

Members Present: Chairman Christopher Brown, Stoughton Smead, Alice Colman, James Murphy and James Coletta (newly appointed and sworn in as a voting member)

Staff: Melissa Graves

**7:00 PM Request for Determination of Applicability
932 Stony Hill Road**

Present: David Haines: Haines Hydro Consulting

The project includes replacing an existing septic system and it will be located in the rear yard. The system will be a minimum of 50' from Bordering Vegetated Wetlands. Silt fence and straw wattle is proposed and will remain in place until the site is stable. Several members of the Commission went to the site prior to the meeting. Grass clippings were located between flags WF4-WF5 and was pointed out at this meeting. The site is relatively gently sloping to the wetland. There is not an alternative location for the system.

Motion: Sto Smead, issue a Positive #2a for the delineation and a Negative #3 & 6 with conditions: dirt is moved away from the system and stored outside limit of work area, install silt fence as shown on plan

2nd: James Coletta

In Favor: James Coletta, Alice Colman, James Murphy, Stoughton Smead

Materials Referenced: WPA Form 1 – Request for Determination of Applicability, Site Plan – Proposed Upgrade of The Subsurface Disposal System dated June 27, 2023 and WPA Form 2 – Determination of Applicability

7:15 PM Appointment Kathy Petruzzelli

Discussion: Whitford/Herrick Place Ponds

Ms. Petruzzelli is a resident adjacent to the ponds and would like some maintenance done in and around the ponds. Older photos show the ponds to be mowed around, skaters on the frozen ice, and shrubs kept trimmed. It is believed that the adjacent neighbors to the ponds were the people that were maintaining the area at one time. It is currently not maintained by anyone and has been left to grow naturally. The existing steps have become slippery and dangerous. The Monson Wilbraham Academy uses the area for the track team and runs up private property instead of the steps because a few people have slipped and fallen on the steps. The members present from the Conservation Commission suggested Ms. Petruzzelli contact the Selectboard for their input on this matter.

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7:20 PM Appointment

2571 Boston Road – Vegetation Removal at 9 Mile Pond

Present: Jimmy Chen, Owner – Mandarin Restaurant

In response to a memo from DEP, the Conservation Commission invited the owners of this site to come to a meeting to discuss the alleged violation. The complaint included that there was vegetation cut within the water's edge of 9 Mile Pond. Mr. Chen indicated that they trimmed the vegetation around the existing dock. The owner was told that is a violation and permission is required from the Conservation Commission. Mr. Chen indicated that he understood the proper procedures for doing work in and around a wetland and will come before the Commission prior to any further work in the future.

Other Business

Update: Red Bridge Hydro Dam

Conservation Commission Chairman confirmed that DEP can extend 30 days at a time for an Emergency Certificate. The Cofferdam is complete and water can be pumped out now. Once the water is drained adjacent to the collapsed structure, they will determine how to begin demolishing the remaining structure.

Tree Removal Request: 9 Deep Wood Drive

The homeowner is requesting to remove several large trees in his rear yard that are dropping limbs in every storm and are a hazard to his safety. Members of the Commission went to the site. After a discussion, the members of the Commission determined that the proposed tree removal would not be a detriment to any wetland or associated buffer zone.

Motion: James Murphy, allow the homeowner to remove the marked trees
2nd: James Coletta

In Favor: Stoughton Smead, Alice Colman, James Murphy and James Coletta


Minutes: September 11, 2023

Motion: James Murphy, as discussed and amended
2nd: James Coletta

In Favor: Stoughton Smead, Alice Colman, James Murphy and James Coletta

Having no further business, a motion was made and seconded to adjourn at 8:30 PM.

Submitted:


Melissa Graves, Administrative Assistant

Date: 10/16/23

Approved As To Form And Content:


Christopher Brown, Chairman

Date: 10/16/23