

TOWN OF WILBRAHAM
240 Springfield Street
Wilbraham, Massachusetts 01095



**Wilbraham Conservation Commission
Meeting Minutes from September 10, 2007**

7:00 PM Meeting called to order by Christopher Brown, Chairman; Members present: Stoughton Smead, Thomas Reavey, Karen Leigh, George Reich and Jim Roberts

SITE WALKS: September 9, 2007

Attendance: Chris Brown, Stoughton Smead, Tom Reavey and George Reich (only to 3 Marilyn Dr)

- 600 Glendale Road
- 3 Marilyn Drive
- 895 Monson Road

- **Bennett Pond:** An abutting resident to Bennett Pond forwarded an email to the Conservation Commission regarding the potential pollution to the pond. She believes it to be from neighbors failing septic systems that abut the pond. The Commission will respond to the resident and schedule a site visit to the pond on September 23rd. In the meantime, forward the email to Lori McCool and request a few water samples be taken from the pond in a couple different locations.

7:15 PM 600 Glendale Road – Notice of Intent

continued from August 13, 2007

The applicant is requesting a continuance pending comments from the Natural Heritage and Endangered Species review. A rare species habitat assessment that focuses on the Eastern Box Turtle and the Wood Turtle is being conducted.

Motion: George Reich, grant the continuance and schedule the public hearing for Monday, September 24, 2007 @ 7:15 PM.

2nd: James Roberts

Unanimously in favor: Christopher Brown, Stoughton Smead, Thomas Reavey, George Reich and Jim Roberts

Recused from hearing: Karen Leigh

- **Tinkham Road/Bolles Road - Pond Project (Robert Matthews)**

Nick Wildman sent in documents showing a change to the approved plans regarding the Robert Matthews pond project. Nick believes them to be minor changes and will actually improve the project. They are proposing a 300' wetland buffer strip at the top of the watercourse. The water that is being pumped from the pond would percolate up through a filter matrix and soil mix before discharging to the watercourse. By passing through the filter and the soil, the water would be cleansed of most floating particles, improving the water clarity that the trout need to thrive. The only additional impact resulting would be from hand grading the 10' x 30' area within the pond buffer to create the wetland filter. The Wetlands Protection Act requires the applicant to submit in writing any changes to the approved plan and the Commission determines if the change is significant enough to require the filing of a new Notice of Intent.

Motion: George Reich, the change is insignificant and does not require a new Notice of Intent filing.

2nd: James Roberts

Discussion: Several Commission members felt that the applicant and/or the applicant's representative should appear before the Commission and review the changes in person. The diagrams were difficult to follow and the explanations were hard to completely understand the proposed changes.

Motion withdrawn: Schedule an appointment with Nick Wildman for September 24, 2007 @ 7:01 to discuss the proposed changes.

7:30 PM **895 Monson Road – Notice of Intent** *continued from August 13, 2007*
The applicant is requesting a continuance pending approval of changes to the septic design by Lori McCool, Health Inspector.
Motion: George Reich, grant the continuance and schedule the public hearing for Monday, September 24, 2007 @ 7:30 PM.
2nd: James Roberts
Unanimously in favor: Christopher Brown, Stoughton Smead, Karen Leigh, Thomas Reavey, George Reich and Jim Roberts

- **Minutes: July 23, 2007**
Motion: George Reich, accept minutes as written
2nd: James Roberts
Unanimously in favor: Christopher Brown, Stoughton Smead, Karen Leigh, Thomas Reavey, George Reich and Jim Roberts

7:45 PM **33 Linwood Drive – Notice of Intent** *continued from August 13, 2007*
Present: Patrick & Lynn Sullivan, owners
This hearing was continued from August 13, 2007 pending comments from the Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program. Based on the review of the information that was provided and the information that is currently contained in their database, they have determined that this project, as currently proposed, will not adversely affect the actual Resource Area Habitat of state-protected rare wildlife species nor result in a “take” of state listed rare species.
Motion: George Reich, close the public hearing and issue an Order of Conditions within 21 days.
2nd: James Roberts
Unanimously in favor: Christopher Brown, Stoughton Smead, Karen Leigh, Thomas Reavey, George Reich and Jim Roberts

8:15 PM **3 Marilyn Drive – Notice of Intent**
Present: Michael Fisher, owner **Colleen Foerster, Pioneer Environmental**
The applicant is proposing an addition, installation of a new septic system and relocating an existing dog pen within the 100’ wetland buffer zone. Several Commission members went to the site on Sunday, September 9, 2007. They observed all of the proposed work will be performed on maintained lawn area. The dog pen will be re-located outside the 50’ buffer zone. The site does fall within the Massachusetts Natural and Endangered Species Program estimated and priority habitat polygon. However, the proposed activities qualify as exemptions from review. The addition does not exceed 50% of the footprint of the existing single-family home and is proposed within areas of pavement and lawfully developed lawn or landscaped areas. The septic system also falls within lawfully developed and maintained lawn area. The site does not fall within a Flood Plain or Riverfront area.
Motion: George Reich, close the public hearing and issue an Order of Conditions within 21 days.
2nd: James Roberts
Unanimously in favor: Christopher Brown, Stoughton Smead, Karen Leigh, Thomas Reavey, George Reich and Jim Roberts

Having no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:00 PM. The Conservation Commission will reconvene at its next scheduled meeting on September 24, 2007 at 7:00 PM.

Submitted:

Approved As To Form And Content:

Melissa Graves, Secretary

Christopher Brown, Chairman

Date: _____

Date: _____