

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



**WILBRAHAM CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

**Meeting Minutes from March 22, 2021**

**Members present via GoToMeeting #765063413 and being recorded:** Chris Brown; Chairman, Jim Roberts, Bill Dane, Stoughton Smead and Alice Colman

**Staff:** Melissa Graves

- 5:00 PM Request for Determination of Applicability Wilbraham Public Library**  
**Present: Jeff Smith: Prime Engineering and Karen Demers: Library Director**  
Mr. Smith presented a plan to develop a gravel walkway at the library and to remove invasive plant species from the adjacent areas. Several members of the Commission went to the site prior to this meeting. Portions of the work are within jurisdictional wetland buffer zones. The path proposed will be at least 30' from any wetland and will be approximately ½ mile in length. As part of the project, removal of invasive plant species is proposed. There is an abundance of burning bush, multiflora rose, barberry, honeysuckle, oriental bittersweet, knotweed and garlic mustard. The vegetation will primarily be removed manually by hand and herbicide applications. Annual maintenance will be needed to keep the growth of these invasive plants from spreading or reestablishing.  
**Motion:** Bill Dane, close the public meeting and issue a Positive #5 and a Negative #3 Determination  
**2<sup>nd</sup>:** Jim Roberts  
**In Favor: (Roll Call Vote):** Jim Roberts, Bill Dane, Stoughton Smead, Alice Colman
- Materials Referenced: WPA Form 1 – Request for Determination of Applicability, Site Plan titled Request for Determination of Applicability Wilbraham Public Library dated February 3, 2021 and WPA Form 2 – Determination of Applicability*
- 5:15 PM Notice of Intent 644V Tinkham Road (continued from March 8, 2021)**  
The applicant requested a continuation of this hearing pending the vegetation survey required by NHESP.  
**Motion:** Bill Dane, Continue the public hearing until April 12, 2021 at 5:00 PM  
**2<sup>nd</sup>:** Jim Roberts  
**In Favor: (Roll Call Vote):** Jim Roberts, Bill Dane, Stoughton Smead, Alice Colman
- 5:20 PM Notice of Intent 650V Tinkham Road (continued from March 8, 2021)**  
The applicant requested a continuation of this hearing pending the vegetation survey required by NHESP.  
**Motion:** Bill Dane, Continue the public hearing until April 12, 2021 at 5:05 PM  
**2<sup>nd</sup>:** Jim Roberts  
**In Favor: (Roll Call Vote):** Jim Roberts, Bill Dane, Stoughton Smead, Alice Colman

**5:20 PM Notice of Intent 555V Ridge Road (continued from March 8, 2021)**

**Present: Keith Terry: Sherman & Frydryk and Patel Rakeshkumar: Owner**

This Notice of Intent is for a single-family home, well, driveway, on-site sewage disposal system and associated grading. The disposal system and rear yard are located within 100' of bordering vegetated wetland and is proposed at the bottom of a fairly steep slope. Erosion controls are shown on the site plan at the top of the exposed ledge area and behind the proposed septic system. The site plan does not show any stormwater management for the increase in impervious surface. Staged construction was recommended by the Commission to help keep the site stable without runoff towards the rear of the parcel. A DEP File number has not been assigned to this project as of this meeting. This parcel is not within the polygon of Mass Natural Heritage Endangered Species Program.

**Motion:** Bill Dane, Continue the public hearing until April 12, 2021 at 5:15 PM pending receipt of DEP FILE # and site plan revision showing stormwater containment

**2<sup>nd</sup>:** Jim Roberts

**In Favor: (Roll Call Vote):** Jim Roberts, Bill Dane, Stoughton Smead, Alice Colman

*Materials Referenced: WPA Form 3 – Notice of Intent, Site Plan titled Plan of Proposed Sewage Disposal System Prepared For Rakeshkumar Patel, 555V Ridge Road, Wilbraham, MA dated February 8, 2021 and Wilbraham DPW comments dated March 22, 2021*

**Appointments**

**Ryan O'Donnell CT River Conservancy**

Mr. O'Donnell provided information to the Conservation Commission regarding a grant his group applied for from the CT Department of Energy and Environmental Protection to produce a Watershed Based Plan for the Scantic River Watershed. The Scantic River has been listed as a priority for this type of plan in CT due to its impaired status; it is also listed as impaired in Massachusetts. While the funding is coming from CT, they will be including the watershed portion located in Massachusetts in the plan. If funded, they will be asking the Conservation Commission to attend the broader public meetings or, if interested, a representative to sit on the advisory board.

The group is currently seeking informal support from the Conservation Commission that would be supportive of such a project and interested in participating as an important stakeholder in this project.

Commission members present at this meeting were in support of this effort but did not take a vote pending the group receiving the grant.

**Joe Calabrese and Tracey Plantier Open Space and Recreation Committee**

After hundreds of hours and many meetings with boards and committees, the draft of the Open Space and Recreation Plan 2022-2028 is ready for review. The Plan includes a vast variety of current and future recreational, land use, and open space opportunities.

Before a new Open Space and Recreation Plan can be submitted to the State for approval, it must be reviewed by the Conservation Commission. After having several weeks to the review the 2022-2028 Open Space and Recreation Plan, the Conservation Commission agreed to compose a letter in support of the content of the Plan.

**Minutes: February 8, 2021**

**Motion:** Alice Colman, approve the minutes as written

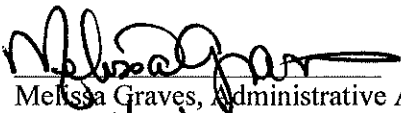
**2<sup>nd</sup>:** Bill Dane

**In Favor: (Roll Call Vote):** Jim Roberts, Bill Dane, Alice Colman and Stoughton Smead

Having no further business, a motion was made to adjourn at 6:31 PM. The Conservation Commission will reconvene at its next scheduled meeting on April 12, 2021 at 5:00 PM.

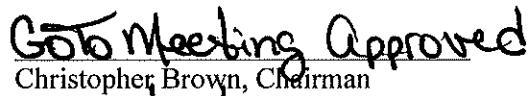
Submitted:

Approved As To Form And Content:



Melissa Graves, Administrative Assistant

Date: 5/17/2021



Christopher Brown, Chairman

Date: 5/17/2021