



# City of Westfield Municipal Conservation Commission

AUGUST 23, 2022 AT 6:30PM  
WESTFIELD CONSERVATION COMMISSION  
MEETING MINUTES

Conservation Commission members in attendance: Chairman David Doe (DD), Tom Sharp (TS), Robert Florek (RF), Carl Grobe (CG), and Lauren DiCarlo (LD). Also in attendance: Anna Meassick, Conservation Coordinator

## 1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

Chairman Doe calls the meeting to order at 6:30 PM and takes attendance. Vice Chairman Murphy and Commissioner Fagnand are not in attendance.

## 2. OPEN PARTICIPATION

Chairman Doe asks if there are any audience members that would like to address anything not on the agenda. Seeing none, Chairman Doe moves to item 3.

## 3. PUBLIC MEETINGS

- A. 40 Turnpike Industrial Road (49R-29) – Gregory Freeman  
Proposal: Installing solar arrays throughout the parcel

Gregory Freeman, the applicant, is present.

Chairman Doe reads the legal language. Coordinator Meassick informs the Commission there are no jurisdictional resource areas within the parcel or abutting parcels. Mr. Freeman explains the parcel is just a parking lot and building that they want to put the areas on/near. Chairman Doe asks for any additional comments from the commission or the public. Seeing none, he entertains a motion to close the public meeting.

Commissioner Grobe motions to close the public meeting. Commissioner DiCarlo seconds. CG-yes, TS-yes, LD-yes, RF-yes, DD-yes.  
The motion passes.

Commissioner Grobe motions on the determination of Negative 1: The area described in the Request is not an area subject to protection under the Act or Buffer Zone. Negative 4: The work described in the Request is not within an Area subject to protection under the Act. Negative 6: The area and/or work described in the Request is not subject to review and approval by the Westfield Wetlands Protection Ordinance 1738. Commissioner Florek seconds. CG-yes, TS-yes, LD-yes, RF-yes, DD-yes  
The motion passes.

## 4. PUBLIC HEARINGS

- A. 558 & 590 Granville Road (26R-20 and 26R-21) – John Patterson  
Proposal: Maintenance of existing drainage ditch

***Commissioner Florek recuses himself.***

Ryan Nelson from RLA is present on behalf of the applicant.

Chairman Doe asks for an update. Mr. Nelson explains the changes made to the project since the original proposal. The work to be done is now considered to be in land underwater and waterways within an intermittent stream. They have overcome the presumptions of significance of the resource area. All paperwork has been updated accordingly, but they are missing the 401 WQC. Due to 401's taking a long time to get approval, Mr. Nelson requests a conditional approval with the 401 being required prior to work. Coordinator Meassick has not yet received DEP comments on the modifications to the plans. The significance of the intermittent stream and bordering vegetated wetland are discussed. Coordinator Meassick requests if a small buffer will be possible around the stream, the process for removing the invasive species, and how the stream will be by-passed given we are leaving the dry season. Mr. Nelson explains that the applicant would like to continue to mow their lawn, roots will be removed and disposed of, and check dams would be used which would allow for work if the stream flows.

Commissioner Sharp inquires to alternatives and how to prevent impacts across the road to neighboring properties. Mr. Nelson explains the discharge at the culvert is the issue, not the stream. Coordinator Meassick explains that they are going to be restoring the stream to its original conditions and flow. Commissioner Sharp wants the 50ft buffer put into place and is not comfortable with the project. Commissioner DiCarlo would like an invasive species management plan. There are not alternatives to dredging.

Chairman Doe asks for any further questions from the Commission. Seeing none, he asks for comments and questions from the audience. Angela Derouin, a former abutter at 515 Granville Road, speaks against the project. Coordinator Meassick and Mr. Nelson address her concerns. Jim Liptak, also a former abutter at 515 Granville Road, speaks against the project and presents photos and videos of the stream flow running rapidly which he will send to Coordinator Meassick.

Chairman Doe asks for further questions from the audience. Seeing none, he entertains a motion to continue.

Commissioner Sharp motions to continue till September 13, 2022 to wait for DEP comments. Commissioner Grobe seconds. CG=yes, TS=yes, LD=yes, DD=yes. The motion passes.

***Commissioner Florek returns to quorum.***

- B. 300 Union Street (35R-22) – Armand Cote  
Proposal: Buffer Zone restoration and parking improvements

Ryan Nelson from RLA is present on behalf of the applicant.

Mr. Nelson explains the additions to the project to address the concerns of the Commission. Coordinator Meassick would still like to walk the delineation now that Mr.

Nelson has returned to work as she suspects the resource area to be bigger than what it is delineated as. Chairman Doe asks for some type of barrier to keep debris from entering the wetland. Mr. Nelson proposes signage along the edge of the resource area. Coordinator Meassick addresses some discrepancies in the notice of intent application that need to be addressed in accordance to the DEP comments.

Chairman Doe asks for additional questions from the Commission. Seeing none, he asks for questions from the audience. Seeing none, he entertains a motion to continue.

Commissioner Grobe motions to continue to September 13, 2022. Commissioner Florek seconds. CG-yes, TS-yes, LD-yes, RF-yes, DD-yes.  
The motion passes.

- C. Old Long Pond Road – Westfield Department of Public Works – Joe Keitner  
Proposal: Replacement of existing culvert

The applicant has requested an extension to September 27, 2022.

Commissioner Grobe motions to continue till September 27, 2022. Commissioner Florek seconds. CG-yes, TS-yes, LD-yes, RF-yes, DD-yes  
The motion passes.

- D. South St, Pochassic St, Ponders Hollow – DEP File #333-822 – Westfield DPW, Jeffrey Gamelli  
Proposal: Ejector pump station replacements

Megan Woytik from Tighe and Bond is present on behalf of the applicant.

Chairman Doe reads the legal language.

Ms. Woytik explains the locations for work: South Street falls within the most resource areas, Ponders Hollow is on the border of riverfront area and bordering land subject to flooding, and Pochassic Street is exempt from regulations for riverfront area as it is a public utility. She explains the construction using South Street as an example. The same methods will be applied to all pump stations. Coordinator Meassick pulls up the images on the screen so that the Commission can see the pump stations.

Chairman Doe asks if any flood storage will be lost. Ms. Woytik explains there will not be due to storm systems already in place and equal displacements of gravel causing no change in elevation. Coordinator Meassick asks for specifications on vegetation replacements. Ms. Woytik lists the plants to be replaced. Coordinator Meassick inquires as to the safety of the surrounding area due to the gas line. She has had several calls of concern. Ms. Woytik explains that the workers have extensive knowledge on how much load the area can handle and there will be engineers on site. Chairman Doe asks for a site visit.

Commissioner Grobe motions to continue to September 13, 2022 for a site visit.  
Commissioner DiCarlo seconds. CG-yes, TS-yes, LD-yes, RF-yes, DD-yes.  
The motion passes.

## 5. ENFORCEMENT

- A. 0 Bayberry Lane (46R-68) - Serge Novenko  
Violation: Removal of trees near an intermittent stream.

Ryan Nelson from RLA is present on behalf of the applicant.

Coordinator Meassick explains that the site is currently filled with upland species and that if you didn't know there was a wetland there before you would have no idea that one existed. She cannot confidently accept the current delineation as definitive under these circumstances and lack of information on the process for delineation. Mr. Nelson is confident in his work and believes based on vegetation the border of the wetland is accurately delineated. He points out that if continued again, restoration work will have to commence in the spring. Removing the logs and mulch that is currently on site is discussed. Coordinator Meassick reminds the Commission they have the option to either accept the current delineation as is or begin restoration or to continue until absolutely certain of the location of the wetland.

Commissioner Sharp motions to issue a notice to the parcel owner that the logs and mulch must be removed from site by September 13, 2022. Commissioner Grobe seconds. CG-yes, TS-yes, LD-yes, RF-yes, DD-yes  
The motion passes.

- B. 240 Russellville Road – Oscar Naula  
Violation: Working outside the permanent limit of work

Mr. Naula is present. He asks the Commission for specification on what needs to be done with the site. Coordinator Meassick explains the enforcement order. Mr. Naula informs the Commission that his brother Angel Naula, who is the property owner, will be in attendance at the next meeting.

Commissioner Sharp motions to continue to September 13, 2022. Commissioner Grobe seconds. CG-yes, TS-yes, LD-yes, RF-yes, DD-yes  
The motion passes.

## 6. CERTIFICATE OF COMPLIANCE

- A. Arm Brook Assistant Living Facility – DEP File #333-647 – Gail Ceresia  
Permit: Construction of Arm Brook Assistant Living Facility

The applicant requests an extension to September 27, 2022.

Commissioner Grobe motions to continue to September 27, 2022. Commissioner Florek seconds. CG-yes, TS-yes, LD-yes, RF-yes, DD-yes.  
The motion passes.

- B. Arm Brook Assistant Living - DEP File # 333-747  
Permit: Storm water management system

The applicant requests an extension to September 27, 2022.

Commissioner Grobe motions to continue to September 27, 2022. Commissioner Florek seconds. CG=yes, TS=yes, LD=yes, RF=yes, DD=yes.

The motion passes.

C. Westfield Flood Control Commission (former) – DEP File #333-804 – Megan Woytik  
Permit: Little River Levee Vegetation Removal

Megan Woytik of Tighe and Bond is present on behalf of the applicant

Ms. Woytik explains the work done and completed with photos showing the regrowth along the levee.

Chairman Doe requests a motion to issue a certificate of compliance. Commissioner Grobe motions to issue a certificate of compliance. Commissioner Florek seconds. CG=yes, TS=yes, LD=yes, RF=yes, DD=yes  
The motion passes.

7. COMMISSION DISCUSSION

A. Regulations & Procedures Q & A

B. Additional items for administration

a. Anonymous Letters/Calls

Coordinator Meassick explains anonymous letters and calls with no messages being received that she is unable to respond to because the information is unclear. She has reached out to the owners of 225 North Road to discuss possible violation.

b. On the radar: Little River Levee Repairs

Coordinator Meassick explains upcoming plans for vegetation removal along the Little River Levee.

The Commission discusses a new clerk for the department. There are no applicants at this time.

Coordinator Meassick has the Commission sign administrative documents.

9. MOTION TO ADJORN

Chairman Doe requests a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Florek motions to adjourn at 7:57pm. Commissioner DiCarlo seconds. CG=yes, TS=yes, LD=yes, RF=yes, DD=yes  
The motion passes.

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A true record, Attest:  
Anna Meassick  
Westfield Conservation Coordinator