

DRAFT MINUTES

Wendell Conservation Commission

Meeting on February 11, 2025 at 6 p.m.

Via Zoom only at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81307558816>

Meeting was posted by Mary Thomas, Conservation Agent, on February 4, 2025

Attendance: Ward Smith, chair; Mary Thomas, Agent; Trevor Kearns, Vice Chair; Rowan Gay, Commissioner; Gillian Budine and Mike & Karen Idoine of Swallow Rise Inc.

Ward opens the meeting at 6 p.m.

Swallow Rise, Inc. Request for Determination of Applicability: A Public Meeting to determine the applicability of the MA Wetlands Protection Act and the Wendell Wetlands Protection Bylaw to a proposal to cut and chip approximately 1.5 acres of fallen and broken small trees damaged in an ice storm which are considered a fire hazard. The proposed work area is between John Quist Road and a wetland to the west. Chips will be distributed on the property.

This is necessary maintenance. Ward moves that the Commission issue a Negative 2 determination under the WPA, which is work within the buffer zone that will not alter it. A Notice of Intent is not necessary. Maintenance is exempt under the Wendell Wetlands Protection Bylaw. Gillian corrects the book and page number. Trevor seconds Ward's motion. Unanimous.

Farley Bridge resurfacing RDA: The Highway Dept. did not advertise the Public Meeting; it's rescheduled to March 11, 2025.

MINUTES: Ward moves to approve the January 14, 2025 meeting minutes as amended. Rowan seconds. Unanimous.

MAIL, EMAIL PHONE MESSAGES AND INTEROFFICE MEMOS:

Beaver Solutions (Fiske Pond) bill: Annual Flow Device Maintenance Plan and Guarantee. \$415 due February 28, 2025. The bill is in the Agenda Packet on the Town website. Ward moves to pay Beaver Solutions \$415. Trevor seconds. Unanimous.

FY2026 Conservation Commission Budget due February 14, 2025. Ward moves to submit for level funding as sent by the Finance Committee. Rowan seconds. Unanimous.

Annual Report was due January 31, 2025. Mary reports that this is in progress. The Commission requests that they see it before it's submitted.

Bowen's Pond: 3rd Party consultant Stockman Associates, LLC's proposal was received, approved and returned to Stockman by Ward. Ward emailed a copy of the proposal to Tom Robinson who sent by registered mail to the Commission a check for \$2,200 made out to Stockman Associates. Ward said to hold the check until Stockman's review is complete.

On February 10, 2025 Adam Porter and Beth Jakob emailed comments re buckthorn management. The email is added to the packet of public comments on the website. It is also sent to Tom Robinson of Bowen's Pond LLC and Adrienne Dunk of GZA Engineering.

ITEMS NOT ANTICIPATED PRIOR TO POSTING

At the request of the Bowen's Pond dam removal applicants, rather than waiting for the hearing continuation on March 11, public comments, including letters, a petition, a position paper and emails sent to the Commission, are being sent to the applicants. They will enter the public record at the February 11 meeting but will not be addressed until March 11, 2025.

Are Craig Townsend's status with DEP concerning serious wetland violations over 10 years ago still unresolved? He brought an ANR to the Planning Board last night. The old violations include 2 stream crossings, damage to a vernal pool and using silt to build a berm to create a pond near a wetland. Ward asked the DEP what they have done and they didn't respond. Ward will ask again.

NEXT MEETING DATE AND TIME: Bowen's Pond dam Public Hearing continued to March 11, 2025 at 6 p.m. This will be a hybrid meeting in the Conference Room.

Ward moves to adjourn the meeting at 6:31. Trevor seconds. Unanimous.

Respectfully submitted by Mary Thomas, Conservation Agent