



# City of Westfield, Massachusetts

Municipal Conservation Commission

October 27, 2020  
REMOTE MEETING MINUTES

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WESTFIELD CITY CLERK

Conservation Commission members in attendance: Chairman David Doe (DD), Vice Chairman James Murphy (JM), Thomas Sharp (TS), Carl Grobe (CG), Alex Fagnand (AF), Cliff Laraway (CL) and Robert Florek (RF). Also in attendance: Meredith Borenstein, Conservation Coordinator and Colleen Fegan-Nunez, Administrative Assistant.

Commissioner Doe reads: *Pursuant to Governor Baker's March 12, 2020 Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. c. 30A, §20, and the Governor's March 15, 2020 Order imposing strict limitation on the number of people that may gather in one place, this meeting of the City of Westfield Conservation Commission will be conducted via remote participation. Specific information can be found on the City of Westfield website at [www.cityofwestfield.org](http://www.cityofwestfield.org). For this meeting, members of the public who wish to listen to the meeting may do so by tuning into Channel 15 or online at [westfieldtv.org](http://westfieldtv.org). No in-person attendance of members of the public will be permitted, but every effort will be made to ensure that the public can adequately access the proceedings in real time, via technological means. In the event that we are unable to do so, despite best efforts, we will post on the City's website an audio recording, transcript, or other comprehensive record of proceedings as soon as possible after the meeting.*

## 1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

Chairman Doe calls the meeting to order at 6:30 pm. He takes attendance. All Commission members are in attendance.

## 2. OPEN PARTICIPATION

Chairman Doe asks if there is anything that could not make the agenda. There is none.

## 3. PUBLIC HEARINGS

### A. Westfield River Floodway- City of Westfield-DEP File #333-0792

Clearing vegetation in the Westfield River Floodway

Mr. Robert Levesque and Mr. Ryan Nelson of R. Levesque and Associates Inc. are present representing.

The Commission discusses what the applicant will need to move forward.

Commissioner Sharp motions to continue to November 10, 2020 at 6:30 PM and is seconded by Commissioner Grobe. JM-Yes, CG-Yes, RF-Yes, TS-Yes, AF-Yes, CL-Yes  
The motion passes.

**Chairman Doe recuses himself and leaves the meeting at 6:36 PM.**

- B. 231 East Main Street (28R-10) and 0 South Meadow Road (28R-6)-Brixmor SPE, LLC  
c/o Reuben Twersky-DEP File #333-796  
Construction of a retail store (Aldi's Market) and associated site improvements within the 100-year Floodplain  
Mr. Robert Levesque and Mr. Ryan Nelson of R. Levesque and Associates Inc. are present representing Brixmor SPE, LLC.

Vice Chairman Murphy reads the legal language. The Commission discusses the project and the location of the compensatory storage. Mr. Levesque explains that it is not for stormwater storage but that it is for floodwater. The abutters express concern about the location of the floodwater storage and if the new building will be an impediment to water flow in the event of a flood. The Commission decides that a site visit is necessary. The Commission asks that the representative address the DEP comments and the City Bylaw in writing and research what type of modeling can be done to assess localized flooding.

Commissioner Sharp motions to continue to November 10, 2020 at 6:30 PM and is seconded by Commissioner Grobe. RF-Yes, TS-Yes, CL-Yes, AF-Yes, CG-Yes, JM-Yes  
The motion passes.

**Chairman Doe returns to the meeting at 8:30 PM.**

- C. 163 Union Street (42R-14)- Cargill, Inc.-DEP File #333-797  
Stormwater Management Improvements at the Salt Storage Facility within the 100-year Floodplain.  
Mr. Russ Parkman of Ramball is present representing Cargill, Inc.

Chairman Doe reads the legal language. Mr. Parkman presents the project which is for stormwater management to improve/decrease the salinity of run-off under a consent decree administered by the Attorney Generals' office. The Commission discusses the how the applicant would deal with a flood event. The Commission asks Mr. Parkman to address DEP comments. The Coordinator discusses that there are open OOCs on this property. The Commission discusses the timeline for finishing the proposed project. The Commission decides that a site visit is necessary.

Commissioner Sharp motions to continue to November 10, 2020 at 6:30 PM and is seconded by Vice Chairman Murphy. JM-Yes, CG-Yes, RF-Yes, TS-Yes, CL-Yes, AF-Yes  
The motion passes.

4. PUBLIC MEETINGS-None at this time.

## 5. ENFORCEMENT-

### A. 51 Deer Path Lane (62R-49)

Clearing in the 100-foot Buffer Zone of an intermittent stream without a permit.

Coordinator Borenstein states that the land owner is working on this Enforcement.

### B. 58 Southwick Road (91-17)-Casey Management Corp/Jelly Belly Pool and Spa Soil storage and sedimentation in the Buffer Zone without a permit.

Coordinator Borenstein states that the land owner is asking to install concrete blocks rather than jersey barriers.

Commissioner Sharp motions to accept the concrete blocks as long as they are comparable to jersey barriers and is seconded by Commissioner Grobe. JM-Yes, CG-Yes, RF-Yes, TS-Yes, AF-Yes, CL-Yes  
The motion passes.

### **Commissioner Fagnand recuses himself.**

### C. 115 West Silver Street (34-11)-Baystate Noble Hospital

Grading of gravel parking lot located off Court Street without a permit or erosion controls. Mr. Robert Levesque of R. Levesque and Associates Inc. (RLA) and Mr. Brown of Baystate Noble Hospital are present representing Baystate Noble Hospital.

Mr. Levesque explains some of the problems with the site. The Commission states that jersey barriers and a comprehensive plan are necessary. Mr. Levesque states that RLA will develop a restoration plan to be implemented in the spring of 2021.

Commissioner Grobe motions to install jersey barriers for now and a more comprehensive restoration plan be presented in the spring and is seconded by Commissioner Sharp. JM-Yes, CG-Yes, RF-Yes, TS-Yes, CL-Yes  
The motion passes

### D. 110 Union Street Full Gospel Church -Question about boulders vs. trees vs. planters

The Commission discusses whether trees or planters would be a good replacement for the required boulders. The property manager expresses concerns about the aesthetics of the boulders. The Commission decides that a site visit is necessary.

6. DISCUSSION

A. Renaming the “Sampson Property” to “Wyben Woods Conservation Area”

The Coordinator discusses that the abutters/donors approve of this name. The Commission decides to rename the property.

Commissioner Grobe motions to change the name of this Conservation Area to the Wyben Woods Conservation Area and is seconded by Vice Chairman Murphy. JM-Yes, CG-Yes, RF-Yes, TS-Yes, CL-Yes, AF-Yes  
The motion passes.

7. OTHER ITEMS

A. Minutes from September 10, September 22, and October 13, 2020.

Vice Chairman Murphy motions to approve the minutes of September 10, 2020 and is seconded by Commissioner Grobe. JM-Yes, CG-Yes, RF-Yes, AF-Yes, CL-Yes, TS-Yes  
The motion passes.

Commissioner Grobe motions to approve the minutes of September 22, 2020 and is seconded by Commissioner Laraway. AF-Yes, JM-Yes, CG-Yes, RF-Yes, TS-Yes, CL-Yes  
The motion passes.

Commissioner Fagnand motions to approve the minutes of October 13, 2020 and is seconded by Commissioner Grobe. CL-Yes, AF-Yes, RF-Yes, TS-Yes, CG-Yes, JM-Yes  
The motion passes.

8. MOTION TO ADJOURN

Commissioner Fagnand motions to adjourn at 9:37 PM and is seconded by Commissioner Grobe. CG-Yes, JM-Yes, RF-Yes, TS-Yes, CL-Yes, AF-Yes  
The motion passes.

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A true record, Attest:  
Colleen Fegan-Nunez  
Westfield Conservation Administrative Assistant