

**CITY OF CHICOPEE**  
**CONSERVATION COMMISSION**  
**Minutes of Meeting**  
**April 5, 2023**

Pursuant to Mass. General Law Ch. 131, Section 40 and the Chicopee Wetland Ordinance Ch. 272, the Chicopee Conservation Commission held a public hearing on **Wednesday, April 5, 2023** at 6:15 PM in the Chambers Conference Room, City Hall Annex, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor, 274 Front St., Chicopee, MA 01013

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Charles Payne opened the meeting at 6:17 PM and announced that the meeting was being recorded.

Conservation Commission attendance:

Member	Present	Absent	Excused
Celeste Donovan			X
Charles Payne	X		
Meghan Balakier	X		
Richard Valcourt	X		
Bianca Thomas			X
Barbara Chamberlain	X		
Sharon Balcom	X		

Planning/Conservation Staff attendance:

Member	Present	Absent	Excused
Lee Pouliot, Director			X
James Dawson, Development Manager	X		
Nick Kiser, Associate Planner			X
Patrick Collins, Assistant Planner			X

**Item 1: Request for Certificate of Compliance (NOI 20-001) – 70 Britton Street (Formerly 76 Britton St.).**

The Applicant is seeking a Certificate of Compliance for construction of a single-family house and associated site improvements within TE Soils.

**Notes:** The Applicant requested a Certificate of Compliance from the Commission. He stated the grass seed was sown in mid-March. Staff visited the site and witnessed erosion control in the form of blankets, silt fencing and straw present on site and in good condition. However, no grass had germinated at the time of the site visit and it was determined that the site was not satisfactorily stabilized as a result. The Commission reviewed the Order of Conditions and voted to grant the Applicant a Partial Certificate of Compliance with the following special conditions:

**The following have been satisfactorily completed per the Order of Conditions File # NOI 20-001:**

1. Site has been graded and seeded. (April 5, 2023)
2. Erosion Control straw mats, silt fencing, and straw bales are in place. (April 5, 2023)
3. Retaining walls are complete (April 5, 2023)

**The following must be satisfactorily addressed prior to the issuance of a Complete Certificate of Compliance:**

1. Vegetative cover (grass) must be established to the satisfaction of Conservation Commission Staff. The Applicant may choose to use methods such as hydroseeding or sod to establish vegetative cover more quickly.

2. Erosion Control must remain in place and in good condition until a Complete Certificate of Compliance is issued by the Conservation Commission.
3. There is to be no parking of vehicles, boats, trailers, or storage of any kind on any unpaved seeded areas until vegetative cover is satisfactorily established, and a Complete Certificate of Compliance is issued by the Conservation Commission.
4. The Applicant is authorized to enter the property for the purposes of maintaining erosion control and establish vegetative cover.
5. The Conservation Commission is requesting that vegetative cover be established by July 5, 2023. The Applicant may request an inspection and placement on a Conservation Commission meeting agenda if vegetative cover is established prior to July 5, 2023.

Motion to grant a Partial Certificate of Compliance with the above special conditions was made by Richard Valcourt and seconded by Sharon Balcom. Vote was 5-0 to issue a Partial Certificate of Compliance.

Member	Approve	Deny	Continue	Abstain
Charles Payne	X			
Meghan Balakier	X			
Richard Valcourt	X			
Barbara Chamberlain	X			
Sharon Balcom	X			

**Item 2:** Minutes from March 1, 2023

Motion to approve was made by Barbara Chamberlain and seconded by Sharon Balcom. Vote was 4 to approve and 1 abstention.

Richard Valcourt abstained since he did not attend the meeting on March 1, 2023.

Member	Approve	Deny	Continue	Abstain
Charles Payne	X			
Meghan Balakier	X			
Richard Valcourt				X
Barbara Chamberlain	X			
Sharon Balcom	X			

**Item 3:** Sign Bills - Staff presented one bill for signatures.

**Item 4:** Upcoming Projects/Discussion

- **Food bank of Western Mass.** – Field Change to stormwater detention area overflow.

It was determined once site work commenced in the field that the stormwater infiltration/detention basin located in the eastern portion of the site had to be modified to account for actual grades in the field. Staff researched the regulations and found work on stormwater mitigation systems to be exempt from the regulations and made the determination that the modifications to the basin would be considered a field change.

**Item 5: Adjournment** – Next scheduled meeting is scheduled for April 19, 2023

Motion to adjourn was made by Meghan Balakier and seconded by Barbara Chamberlain. Vote was 5-0 to adjourn.

<b>Member</b>	<b>Approve</b>	<b>Deny</b>	<b>Continue</b>	<b>Abstain</b>
Charles Payne	X			
Meghan Balakier	X			
Richard Valcourt	X			
Barbara Chamberlain	X			
Sharon Balcom	X			

**Meeting adjourned at 7:08 PM.**