

**CITY OF CHICOPEE
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Minutes of Meeting
August 2, 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, August 2, 2023 at 6:15 PM in the Chambers Conference Room, City Hall Annex, 4th Floor, 274 Front St., Chicopee, MA 01013

Charlie Payne opened the meeting at 6:25 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: (Tabled from July 19, 2023) NOI for the backfilling of a portion of the Chicopee Falls Local Protection Project Easement and adjacent upland areas to facilitate future site redevelopment. Location: 0 and 154 Grove Street and 75 (0) West Main Street. (Assessor Map 0124, Parcel 3, and Assessor Map 0173, Parcel 1, and Assessor Map 0147, Parcel 6.) Applicant: City of Chicopee c/o Lee Pouliot., 274 Front Street, Chicopee, MA 01013

Notes: As noted above the NOI was tabled on July 19, 2023. This was due to there not being a MassDEP file number issued at the time. Laura Krause and Rob Smith from The Beta Group along with City Planner and Applicant Lee Pouliot provided an overview of the presentation provided on July 19, 2023 and answered questions of the Commission. Ms. Krause reviewed and addressed the MassDEP comments associated with the issued file number. She explained that the site met the qualifications of an historic mill complex and redevelopment within Riverfront Area was exempt from the WPA. Planning/Conservation Staff Member Jim Dawson explained it was Staff’s opinion that the Commission could issue a “Notification of Non-significance” since the Riverfront Area is completely cut-off from the Chicopee River by a levee. The Riverfront Area within the levee historically has been occupied by mill buildings (exempt under the WPA), parking, storage areas, and subject to typical development and maintenance activities associated with an industrial facility. Prior to the construction of the levee the Chicopee River ran along the foundation of some of the mill buildings. When the levee was constructed, the bank was altered by fill and other means to extend and reshape the original riverbank to accommodate the levee and move the riverbank away from the buildings. Thus, in the opinion of the Commission, there is nothing of significance to the interests identified in the Massachusetts Wetland Protection Act or City Ordinance or bylaws at this location to warrant compliance with the standards cited in 310 CMR10:58(4).

Motion to issue a Notification of Non-Significance was made by Sharon Balcom and seconded by Barbara Chamberlain. Vote 5 to 0 to issue the Notification of Non-Significance.

Member	Approve	Deny	Continue	Abstain
Charles Payne	X			
Richard Valcourt	X			
Bianca Thomas	X			
Barbara Chamberlain	X			
Sharon Balcom	X			

Item 2: Minutes from July 19, 2023

Motion to approve the minutes was made by Sharon Balcom and seconded by Barbara Chamberlain. Vote was 5 to 0 to approve.

Member	Approve	Deny	Continue	Abstain
Charles Payne	X			
Richard Valcourt	X			
Bianca Thomas	X			
Barbara Chamberlain	X			
Sharon Balcom	X			

Item 3: Sign Bills – The Commission signed one bill.

Item 4: Upcoming Projects/Discussion

Discussion on the progress of Enforcement Order at 129 Dejordy Lane – At the July 19, 2023 hearing, the Commission requested that a certified letter be sent to the Property Owner asking him to attend the August 2, 2023 meeting to provide an update on his progress on the NOI to remedy the situation that resulted in the Enforcement Order 23-E001.

The property owner of 129 Dejordy Lane has been in contact with GZA Geo Environmental and has left phone messages with other wetland specialist consultants. At this time, GZA has been provided some insight into the situation. It appears that GZA is seeking additional information prior to offering their services to the property owner.

The committee has stressed to the property owner that a Notice of Intent with a plan to remedy the situation will need to be submitted prior to the end of the growing season. It was requested by Commissioner Payne that the owner continue to reach out to other wetland specialist's, the goal is to have a consultant on board by mid-September 2023.

Note: Lingering health issues are hindering the property owner efforts in moving more aggressively in remedying the situation.

Item 5: Adjournment – Next scheduled meeting is September 6, 2023

Motion to adjourn was made by Barbara Chamberlain and seconded by Sharon Balcom. Vote was 5-0 to adjourn.

Member	Approve	Deny	Continue	Abstain
Charles Payne	X			
Richard Valcourt	X			
Bianca Thomas	X			
Barbara Chamberlain	X			
Sharon Balcom	X			