

**CITY OF CHICOPEE  
CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

**Minutes of Meeting  
January 20, 2021**

**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, January 20, 2021 at 6:15 PM via video conference (Zoom).**

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**Celeste Donovan opened the meeting at 6:15 PM and announced that the meeting was being recorded and read the following statement into the meeting record:**

Pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 131, Section 40 and the Chicopee Wetlands Ordinance, Chapter 272, the Chicopee Conservation Commission calls to order this public hearing today, January 20, 2021 at 6:15 pm.

Commissioners are meeting through video conference utilizing Zoom.

In order to ensure and satisfy CDC social distancing guidelines during the COVID-19 Pandemic and pursuant to Governor Baker's March 23, 2020 Order as amended, the Chicopee Conservation Commission is conducting public hearings utilizing remote collaboration technology in accordance with Governor Baker's March 12, 2020 Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, M.G.L. Chapter 30A, Section 18.

Copies of application materials for items on the Commission's agenda may be requested by phone: 413-594-1515 or by emailing Jim Dawson at [jdawson@chicopeema.gov](mailto:jdawson@chicopeema.gov)

Tonight's public hearings will be available for viewing via the Spectrum Community Access Channel 191 or the Chicopee TV website at [www.facebook.com/ChicopeeTV](https://www.facebook.com/ChicopeeTV) or <https://vimeo.com/chicopeetv>

Public comment was received during two timeframes. The first public comment period took place prior to the opening of the public hearing on January 6, 2021. The second public comment period took place following the January 6, 2021 hearing and remained open until January 20, 2021.

To provide public comments in writing please mail to the Chicopee Conservation Commission, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor, City Hall Annex, 274 Front St., Chicopee, MA 01013. By email to Jim Dawson at [jdawson@chicopeema.gov](mailto:jdawson@chicopeema.gov), or by calling 413-594-1517. All public comments received will be provided to all Commission Members and discussed at either of the above listed meeting dates. All commenting individuals shall state their name, address and company/organizational affiliation in addition to the item(s) that the comments pertain to. Comments received prior to the January 6, 2021 hearing were entered at that meeting, those received after the January 6, 2021 hearing will be entered at the hearing on January 20, 2021.

Conservation Commission attendance:

<b>Member</b>	<b>Present</b>	<b>Absent</b>	<b>Excused</b>
Celeste Donovan (Zoom)	<b>X</b>		
Charles Payne (Zoom)	<b>X</b>		
Sharon Balcom (Zoom)	<b>X</b>		
Meghan Balakier (Zoom)	<b>X</b>		
Richard Valcourt (Zoom)	<b>X</b>		
Brian Nunes (Zoom)	<b>X</b>		

Planning/Conservation Staff attendance:

<b>Member</b>	<b>Present</b>	<b>Absent</b>	<b>Excused</b>
Lee Pouliot, Director (Zoom)			<b>X</b>
James Dawson, Development Manager (Zoom)	<b>X</b>		
Patrick McKenna, Assistant Planner			<b>X</b>
Nathan Moreau, Associate Planner			<b>X</b>

**Item 1: (Continued from January 6, 2021) NOI** for restoration of altered Terrace Escarpment Soils. Location: 19 Old Chicopee St. Applicant: Jerzy Cebula, Sunny Hill, LLC. 18 Benedict St., West Springfield, MA 01089

**Notes:** Edward Chapdelaine of Durkee, White, Towne and Chapdelaine briefed the Commission on the project. Mr. Chapdelaine provided a comprehensive presentation with regard to the site and the reason for the NOI filing with the Commission at the January 6, 2021 meeting. Staff noted it had visited the site with Mr. Chapdelaine on January 19, 2021 and found the installation of the erosion control to be satisfactory. On two previous visits to the site, Staff rejected the erosion control measures for not being properly installed. Staff reminded the Commission of recommendations made to the Applicant at the January 6, 2021 meeting regarding the restoration seed mix and plant material to be utilized to restore the disturbed areas of the property. Commissioners were in agreement with the restoration suggestions by Staff and voted to include them as conditions to the Order of Conditions. Staff noted that this NOI submission was for the restoration work of the hillside only and any further work on the retaining wall on the site would require additional filings with the Commission. The Commission voted to grant an Order of Conditions with Special Conditions.

Motion to issue an Order of Conditions with Special Conditions was made by Charles Payne and seconded by Richard Valcourt. Vote was 6-0 to issue an Order of Conditions with Special Conditions.

Member	Approve	Deny	Continue	Abstain
Celeste Donovan	X			
Charles Payne	X			
Sharon Balcom	X			
Meghan Balakier	X			
Richard Valcourt	X			
Brian Nunes	X			

**Item 2: Emergency Certification – NSTAR d/b/a Eversource Energy** - Eversource needs to do emergency repairs due to storm damage. Circuit had to be shut down and Cabotville placed on a back-up circuit.

**Notes:** Melissa Kaplan of the BSC Group presented a description of a storm related issue that will result in the eventual issuance of an Emergency Certification. Ms. Kaplan explained that during a recent severe wind storm wires from the 18L16 line became entangled rendering the line “out of service” and placing an area of the City on an alternate service feed. As a result of the entangled wires, damage occurred to several poles in the immediate area. The poles will have to be replaced along with the section of entangled wires. Since work associated with an Emergency Certification must be completed within 30 days, the Commission did not issue the Certification in order to allow the Applicant to obtain other required permits and not consume the 30 day work period associated with the Emergency Certification.

**Item 3: Enforcement Orders – Update**

- Sunflower Ave. – No new information as of January 20, 2021

**Item 4: Minutes** from January 6, 2021

Motion to approve was made by Sharon Balcom and seconded by Richard Valcourt. Vote was 6-0 to approve.

Member	Approve	Deny	Continue	Abstain
Celeste Donovan	X			
Charles Payne	X			
Sharon Balcom	X			
Meghan Balakier	X			
Richard Valcourt	X			
Brian Nunes	X			

**Item 5: Sign Bills** – One new bill to sign.

**Item 6: Upcoming Project Updates/Discussion**

- **(February 3, 2021) RDA - Rolf Avenue** – Construction of a single-family house in Buffer Zone to Terrace Escarpment Soils
- **(February 3, 2021) – RDA - Delta Park** – Soil Borings for geotechnical assessment.

- **18L16 Pole Distribution Replacement Project Phase I** – The Commission issued a Determination of Applicability in July 2020 for Phase I of the project. When one of the poles was being replaced it was discovered that a subsurface drainage culvert is located exactly where the new pole was to be placed. Melissa Kaplan of the BSC Group explained the dilemma to the Commission. The Commissioners discussed the issue at hand and determined since the pole relocation was close to the original location and the relocation method would cause minimal disturbance they would consider the relocation of the pole to be a field change not requiring any further filing with the Commission.

Motion to consider the pole relocation as a field change was made by Meghan Balakier and seconded by Sharon Balcom. Vote was 6-0 to consider the pole relocation as a field change.

<b>Member</b>	<b>Approve</b>	<b>Deny</b>	<b>Continue</b>	<b>Abstain</b>
Celeste Donovan	<b>X</b>			
Charles Payne	<b>X</b>			
Sharon Balcom	<b>X</b>			
Meghan Balakier	<b>X</b>			
Richard Valcourt	<b>X</b>			
Brian Nunes	<b>X</b>			

**Item 7: Adjournment** – Next scheduled meeting is February 3, 2021

Motion to adjourn was made by Richard Valcourt and seconded by Sharon Balcom. Vote was 6-0 to adjourn.

<b>Member</b>	<b>Approve</b>	<b>Deny</b>	<b>Continue</b>	<b>Abstain</b>
Celeste Donovan	<b>X</b>			
Charles Payne	<b>X</b>			
Sharon Balcom	<b>X</b>			
Meghan Balakier	<b>X</b>			
Richard Valcourt	<b>X</b>			
Brian Nunes	<b>X</b>			

**Meeting adjourned at 6:53 PM.**