

**CITY OF CHICOPEE
CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

Minutes of Meeting

April 20, 2022

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 20, 2022** at 6:15 PM via Zoom and in the Planning and Conservation Office, City Hall Annex, 4th Floor, 274 Front St., Chicopee, MA 01013

Celeste Donovan opened the meeting at 6:16 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

Planning/Conservation Staff attendance:

Member	Present	Absent	Excused
Lee Pouliot, Director			X
James Dawson, Development Manager	X		
Nathan Moreau, Associate Planner			X

Item 1: NOI for repair of slope erosion resulting from failing parking lot. Work to occur within Riverfront Area, Buffer Zone to a Bordering Vegetated Wetland, and Terrace Escarpment Soils. Location: 1307 and 1283 Memorial Dr. Chicopee, MA. Applicant: Michael Houston, Houston Enterprises, Inc. 54 Dickinson Dr. Granville, MA 01034

Notes: Staff explained that the NOI was a requirement of Enforcement Order 22-E001 that was issued on January 25, 2022 when an Emergency Certification was not sufficiently addressed by January 4, 2022.

John Masuck of R. Levesque Associates was in attendance to present the NOI to the Commission. Mr. Masuck explained the extent of the erosion and how the situation was going to be addressed with lifts of compacted soil, seed mats and planting of native plant species. Mr. Masuck also explained the types of erosion control that would be installed. The Commission asked questions about the restoration process and were satisfied with Mr. Masuck’s replies. The Commission then discussed conditions to the Order of Conditions including but not limited to installation of “WETLAND DO NOT DISTURB” signs every 30’ along the physical barriers to prevent deposition of snow down the streambank in the future as well as the distance the barriers are to be installed. The Commission provided the Applicant with a couple of options for the barriers such as 4’ high chain link fencing, or wooden guardrail at least 24” in height. The Commission also implemented their standard erosion control and inspection conditions. The Commission voted to issue an Order of Conditions with Special Conditions. (Full list of Special Conditions to be attached to the Order of Conditions)

Motion to issue an Order of Conditions with Special Conditions was made by Richard Valcourt and seconded by Charles Payne. Vote was 4-0 to issue an Order of Conditions with Special Conditions.

Member	Approve	Deny	Continue	Abstain
Celeste Donovan	X			
Charles Payne	X			
Meghan Balakier	X			
Richard Valcourt	X			

Item 2: Minutes from February 16, 2022

Motion to approve the minutes was made by Charles Payne and seconded by Richard Valcourt. Vote was 4-0 to approve the minutes.

Member	Approve	Deny	Continue	Abstain
Celeste Donovan	X			
Charles Payne	X			
Meghan Balakier	X			
Richard Valcourt	X			

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

Item 4: Upcoming Projects/Discussion

Notes: Staff explained two agenda items scheduled for the May 4, 2022 meeting as well as a couple other issues the Commission is currently dealing with including the following:

- Upcoming request for an Amended Order of Conditions for 227 East Main Street – The property owner is requesting to construct/replace additional retaining walls along his side property line that were not included in the original Order of Conditions.
- Soil borings to be done at Szot Park in preparation for the Abbey Brook Restoration Project. (May 4, 2022 agenda)
- RDA for parking lot reconstruction/expansion at 7 Coburn Street (National Vinyl) (May 4, 2022 agenda)
- Noncompliance of Enforcement Order 22-E002 - 616 Broadway Street – The Commission made the decision to implement fines for noncompliance of the Enforcement Order (The property owner did not submit a Restoration Plan by the required April 1, 2022 deadline).

Item 5: Adjournment – Next scheduled meeting is May 4, 2022.

Motion to adjourn was made by Richard Valcourt and seconded by Charles Payne. Vote was 4-0 to adjourn.

Member	Approve	Deny	Continue	Abstain
Celeste Donovan	X			
Charles Payne	X			
Meghan Balakier	X			
Richard Valcourt	X			

Meeting adjourned at 7:15 PM.