

**CITY OF CHICOPEE
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Minutes of Meeting
May 4, 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, May 4, 2022** at 6:15 PM in the Auditorium, City Hall Annex, 3rd Floor, 274 Front St., Chicopee, MA 01013

Charles Payne opened the meeting at 6:15 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 |
| John Barre | X | | |

Planning/Conservation Staff attendance:

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

***Welcome John Barre to the Commission**

Item 1: RDA for two geotechnical soil borings. Work to include drilling, soil sampling, and backfilling with drilling cuttings. Work will occur within Bordering Vegetated Wetland (BVW), Bordering Land Subject to Flooding (BLSF), and the 100' Buffer Zone of Inland Bank and BVW. Location: Szot Park, Abbey Memorial Dr. Chicopee, MA. Applicant: City of Chicopee, Department of Planning and Development, 274 Front St., Chicopee, MA 01013

Notes: Melissa Coady and David Azinheira of Tighe and Bond presented the RDA to the Commission. Staff asked if they could provide an overview of the project for the benefit of the Commission. Ms. Coady and Mr. Azinheira obliged. They explained that ultimately the dams will be removed and the pond will no longer exist. Abbey Brook will naturally seek its channel and streamflow will return to the site as it did prior to the construction of the dams which created the ponds utilized for ice harvesting. It was then explained the geotechnical borings requested in this RDA were for determining soil composition for the future installation of a boardwalk. Staff provided the Commission with a recommendation of a Negative 2 and a Positive 5 Determination. The Commission agreed with the recommendation and voted to issue the determinations as recommended.

Motion to issue a Negative 2 and a Positive 5 Determination was made by Richard Valcourt and seconded by Meghan Balakier. Vote was 4-0 to issue a Negative 2 and a Positive 5 Determination.

| Member | Approve | Deny | Continue | Abstain |
|------------------|----------------|-------------|-----------------|----------------|
| Charles Payne | X | | | |
| Meghan Balakier | X | | | |
| Richard Valcourt | X | | | |
| John Barre | X | | | |

Item 2: RDA for parking lot expansion to include 20 new parking spaces, 7,780 SF of new bituminous pavement and a new stormwater management system. Location: 7 Coburn St. Chicopee, MA. Applicant: Benjamin Sumner, 983 Page Blvd., Springfield, MA 01104

Notes: Luke Showalter of Furrow Engineering represented the applicant and presented the RDA to the Commission. Mr. Showalter explained the project consisted of adding loading dock doors to the building and adding approximately 7,780 SF of new parking lot to the property. The parking area expansion would occur within Terrace Escarpment Soils buffer zone thus requiring the filing of the RDA. Since the site is generally flat the proposed project should not pose any negative impacts to the buffer zone provided adequate erosion control measures are installed and maintained for the duration of the project. Staff recommended a Positive 5 and Positive 6 Determination with standard erosion control conditions. The Commissioners agreed and voted to issue the determinations as recommended.

Motion to issue a Positive 5 and Positive 6 Determination with standard erosion control conditions was made by Richard Valcourt and seconded by John Barre. Vote was 4-0 to issue a Positive 5 and Positive 6 Determination with standard erosion control conditions.

| Member | Approve | Deny | Continue | Abstain |
|------------------|---------|------|----------|---------|
| Charles Payne | X | | | |
| Meghan Balakier | X | | | |
| Richard Valcourt | X | | | |
| John Barre | X | | | |

Item 3: Minutes from April 20, 2022

Notes: John Barre abstained from the vote on the minutes as he was not a member of the Commission at the time of the April 20, 2022 meeting.

Motion to approve the minutes was made by Meghan Balakier and seconded by Richard Valcourt. Vote was 3 in favor, 0 opposed and 1 abstention.

| Member | Approve | Deny | Continue | Abstain |
|------------------|---------|------|----------|---------|
| Charles Payne | X | | | |
| Meghan Balakier | X | | | |
| Richard Valcourt | X | | | |
| John Barre | | | | X |

Item 4: Sign Bills - Staff noted there was one bill to sign.

Item 5: Upcoming Projects/Discussion

Notes: Staff provided the following to the Commission:

- (May 18, 2022) 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.
- (May 18, 2022) RDA for resurfacing and minor tree trimming along the Chicopee section of the Massachusetts Turnpike.
- 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. (Staff mailed a certified citation letter on April 22, 2022.)

Item 6: Adjournment – Next scheduled meeting is May 18, 2022.

Motion to adjourn was made by Richard Valcourt and seconded by John Barre. Vote was 4-0 to adjourn.

| Member | Approve | Deny | Continue | Abstain |
|------------------|---------|------|----------|---------|
| Charles Payne | X | | | |
| Meghan Balakier | X | | | |
| Richard Valcourt | X | | | |
| John Barre | X | | | |

Meeting adjourned at 6:51 PM.

