

**CITY OF CHICOPEE**  
**CONSERVATION COMMISSION**  
**Minutes of Meeting**  
**May 5, 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, May 5, 2021 at 6:15 PM via video conference (Zoom).**

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**Celeste Donovan opened the meeting at 6:17 PM and announced that the meeting was being recorded and read the following statement into the meeting record:**

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 City of Chicopee is providing public notice that it will conduct a public hearing 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. C. 30A, 18.

Copies of application materials may be requested by phone (413-594-1517) or by emailing Jim Dawson at [jdawson@chicopeema.gov](mailto:jdawson@chicopeema.gov).

To view the recorded public hearings please tune to Spectrum Community Access Channel 191 or the ChicopeeTV website at [Facebook.com/ChicopeeTV](https://www.facebook.com/ChicopeeTV) and/or <https://vimeo.com/chicopeety>

Public comments were received during two timeframes. The first public comment period took place prior to the opening of public hearings on April 21, 2021. The second public comment period took place following the April 21, 2021 hearings and remained open until May 5, 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.

Conservation Commission attendance:

<b>Member</b>	<b>Present</b>	<b>Absent</b>	<b>Excused</b>
Celeste Donovan	<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	<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: (Cont. from April 21, 2021) RDA** for construction of retaining walls, concrete patio, wooden steps and installation of fencing. Work will occur within 100' Wetland Buffer Zone and 100' Buffer to Terrace Escarpment Soils. Location: 56 Fletcher Circle, Chicopee, MA 01020. Applicant: Kristen Pope, same address.

**Notes:** Charles Payne provided a summary of the previous hearing at the request of Celeste Donovan as she was excused from the April 21, 2021 hearing. Applicant Kristen pope provided details from the presentation of the RDA from the previous hearing. Staff noted it had not received any public comments since the hearing on April 21, 2021. Staff explained its recommendation on appropriate Determinations.

Motion to issue a Positive 5 and a Positive 6 Determination was made by Meghan Balakier and seconded by Charles Payne. Vote was 4-0 to issue a Positive 5 and a Positive 6 Determination with the Commission's standard erosion control conditions.

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

**Item 2: (Cont. from April 21, 2021) RDA** for the reconstruction and expansion of municipal parking lot and conversion of a separate parking area to recreational green/open space. Location: Front St. Assessor Map 97, Parcels 34, 35, 36, 52 and 53. Applicant: Chicopee Department of Planning & Development and Conservation, c/o Lee Pouliot. 274 Front St. Chicopee, MA 01013

**Notes:** Lee Pouliot represented the City of Chicopee and provided an overview of the presentation from the previous hearing. Staff noted there had been no public comments on the RDA and explained the recommendation on the appropriate Determinations.

Motion to issue a Positive 5, a Positive 6 and a Negative 3 Determination was made by Richard Valcourt and seconded by Charles Payne. Vote was 4-0 to issue a Positive 5, a Positive 6 and a Negative 3 Determination.

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

**Item 3: (Cont. from April 7 and 21, 2021) NOI** for Chicopee Reservoir Annual Drawdown and Vegetation Management Project. Work will include removal of vegetation within 20' of the reservoir dam and for a five year authorization of the annual drawdown of the reservoir for maintenance purposes. Work will occur within Inland Bank, Bordering Vegetated Wetland, Land Under Waterways and Waterbodies, Riverfront Area and Buffer Zone. Location: Chicopee Memorial State Park – 570 Burnett Rd., Chicopee, MA 01020. Applicant: Sean Gaffney, Massachusetts DCR, 1048 North Rd., Westfield, MA 01085

**Notes:** Neither the Applicant nor their representative were present at the hearing therefore the Commission voted to continue the hearing on this item to May 19, 2021.

Motion to continue to May 19, 2021 was made by Charles Payne and seconded by Meghan Balakier. Vote was 4-0 to continue to May 19, 2021.

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

**Item 4: Minutes** from April 21, 2021

**Notes:** Staff reported the minutes for April 21, 2021 were not completed to date.

Motion to continue to May 19, 2021 was made by Richard Valcourt and seconded by Meghan Balakier. Vote was 4-0 to continue to May 19, 2021.

<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>	
Meghan Balakier			<b>X</b>	
Richard Valcourt			<b>X</b>	

**Item 5: Sign Bills** – Staff noted there were no bills to sign.

**Item 6: Upcoming Projects/Discussion**

- **Emergency Certification** – Eversource needs to do emergency repairs due to storm damage. Circuit had to be shut down and Cabotville placed on a back-up circuit. – There was no further discussion from the Applicant on this issue. (*Request to date May 3, 2021 as project will take all of the allotted 30 days – Site visit occurred on April 30, 2021 at 10:00 AM*)

**Notes:** Staff noted the Emergency Certification was drafted and issued to Eversource. Staff performed a site visit on April 30, 2021. Commissioners to ratify the Emergency Certification.

- **Enforcement Order** – 535 East Main Street – Lee will sign and Commissioners will ratify. Enforcement Order issued April 30, 2021.

**Notes:** The Property Owner was issued an Enforcement Order on April 30, 2021 and ordered to appear before the Commission on May 19, 2021. Property Owner has spoken to Lee Pouliot regarding the Order.

**Item 7: Adjournment** – Next scheduled meeting is May 19, 2021

Motion to adjourn was made by Meghan Balakier and seconded by Richard Valcourt. Vote was 4-0 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>			
Meghan Balakier	<b>X</b>			
Richard Valcourt	<b>X</b>			

**Meeting adjourned at 6:55 PM.**