

**CITY OF CHICOPEE  
CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

**Minutes of Meeting  
June 1, 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, June 1, 2022** at 6:15 PM in the Chambers Conference Room, City Hall Annex, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor, 274 Front St., Chicopee, MA 01013

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Celeste Donovan 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		
Barbara Chamberlain	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: (Cont. from May 18, 2022) RDA** for I-90 resurfacing, minor tree trimming, and incidental associated scope. Work will occur adjacent to streams and associated riverfront areas, wetlands, and intermittent streams, bordering land subject to flooding (BLSF), and Bank. Location: I-90. Applicant: MassDOT, 811 N. King St., Northampton, MA 01060

**Notes:** Robert Natario from MassDOT provided an overview of the RDA that was opened on May 18, 2022. Mr. Natario discussed the Commission’s question of MassDOT being “exempt” from local ordinances. The Commissioners reiterated from the past meeting that the burden of proof shall be on MassDOT to provide the Commission with citations to support their stance on exemptions. Commissioner Valcourt provided an article by MACC stating that MassDOT is not exempt from local ordinances and bylaws. Mr. Natario stated that MassDOT was not willing to revise the RDA application to reflect review under the local ordinances. The Commission voted to attach specific conditions on the Determination of Applicability. Mr. Natario stated the conditions could be adhered to.

Motion to issue a Negative 5 Determination was made by Charles Payne and seconded by Richard Valcourt. Vote was 5 in favor, 0 opposed and 1 abstention to issue a Negative 5 Determination. (Barbara Chamberlain was not a Commission Member at the time of the May 18, 2022 meeting therefore she abstained from the vote.)

Member	Approve	Deny	Continue	Abstain
Celeste Donovan	X			
Charles Payne	X			
Meghan Balakier	X			
Richard Valcourt	X			
Bianca Thomas	X			
Barbara Chamberlain				X

**Item 2: Minutes** from May 18, 2022

Motion to approve the minutes was made by Charles Payne and seconded by Richard Valcourt. Vote was 4 in favor, 0 opposed and 2 abstentions to approve. (Neither Meghan Balakier nor Barbara Chamberlain were present at the meeting and therefore abstained.)

Member	Approve	Deny	Continue	Abstain
Celeste Donovan	X			
Charles Payne	X			
Meghan Balakier				X
Richard Valcourt	X			
Bianca Thomas	X			
Barbara Chamberlain				X

**Item 3: Sign Bills** - Staff noted there were no bills to sign.

**Item 4: Upcoming Projects/Discussion** – Staff noted there was nothing new to report.

**Item 5: Adjournment** – Next scheduled meeting is July 6, 2022 since there were no new applications for a June 15, 2022 hearing.

Motion to adjourn was made by Charles Payne and seconded by Richard Valcourt. 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>			
Meghan Balakier	<b>X</b>			
Richard Valcourt	<b>X</b>			
Bianca Thomas	<b>X</b>			
Barbara Chamberlain	<b>X</b>			

**Meeting adjourned at 6:50 PM.**