

**CITY OF CHICOPEE
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Minutes of Meeting
June 2, 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, June 2, 2021** at 6:15 PM via video conference (Zoom).

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:

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.

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/chicopeetv>

Public comments will be received during two timeframes. The first public comment period took place prior to the opening of public hearings on June 2, 2021. The second public comment period will take place following the June 2, 2021 hearings and remain open until June 16, 2021.

To provide public comments in writing please mail to the Chicopee Conservation Commission, 4th Floor, City Hall Annex, 274 Front St., Chicopee, MA 01013. By email to Jim Dawson at 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:

Member	Present	Absent	Excused
Celeste Donovan	X		
Charles Payne	X		
Sharon Balcom	X		
Meghan Balakier	X		
Richard Valcourt			X
Brian Nunes	X		

Planning/Conservation Staff attendance:

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

Item 1: (Continued from April 7, 21 and May 5 and 19, 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: Staff reported the Applicant had requested a continuance to June 16, 2021

Motion to continue to June 16, 2021 was made by Sharon Balcom and seconded by Charles Payne. Vote was 5-0 to continue to June 16, 2021.

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

Item 2: (Cont. from July 1 and 15 and August 5 and 19 and October 7 and November 4, 2020) Request for Certificate of Compliance for Lot C-1 (NOI 19-003) The Applicant is requesting a Certificate of Compliance for Lot C-1 on Sheridan Street. The Commission issued an Order of Conditions on July 25, 2019.

Notes: Staff reported that the Applicant called to schedule another site visit to review what was required to obtain a Certificate of Compliance. Staff emailed the Applicant the list of conditions from the Commission that was issued in July 2020. Staff noted they were not going out to the site again until progress had been made to address the conditions. Staff also noted it would not make any sense to continue to June 16, 2021 as that would not be adequate time for the outstanding work to be completed and the site to be stabilized. The Commission voted to continue to July 7, 2021 to give the Applicant an additional month to comply. If no progress is made by July 7, 2021 the Commission noted it will issue Enforcement Orders.

Motion to continue to July 7, 2021 was made by Meghan Balakier and seconded by Brian Nunes. Vote was 5-0 to continue to July 7, 2021.

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

Item 3: (Cont. from July 1 and 15 and August 5 and 19 and October 7 and November 4, 2020) Request for Certificate of Compliance for Lot C-2 (NOI 19-004) The Applicant is requesting a Certificate of Compliance for Lot C-2 on Sheridan Street. The Commission issued an Order of Conditions on July 25, 2019.

Notes: Staff reported that the Applicant called to schedule another site visit to review what was required to obtain a Certificate of Compliance. Staff emailed the Applicant the list of conditions from the Commission that was issued in July 2020. Staff noted they were not going out to the site again until progress had been made to address the conditions. Staff also noted it would not make any sense to continue to June 16, 2021 as that would not be adequate time for the outstanding work to be completed and the site to be stabilized. The Commission voted to continue to July 7, 2021 to give the Applicant an additional month to comply. If no progress is made by July 7, 2021 the Commission noted it will issue Enforcement Orders.

Motion to continue to July 7, 2021 was made by Sharon Balcom and seconded by Meghan Balakier. Vote was 5-0 to continue to July 7, 2021.

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

Item 4: (New) NOI for reconstruction of severely deteriorated retaining wall and associated site work including erosion control. Work will occur within Riverfront Area of the Chicopee River. Location: 225-227 East Main St, Chicopee, MA 01020. Applicant: Juan Almestica, 227 East Main St., Chicopee, MA 01020.

Notes: Ryan Nelson from R. Levesque Associates presented the NOI to the Commission. Mr. Nelson explained the type of retaining wall being proposed (pre-engineered blocks). Mr. Nelson reviewed the comments from MassDEP and noted there was one large tree that would have to be removed to install the new retaining wall. Staff commented that the tree to be removed appeared to be an invasive Norway Maple and was not concerned about its removal. Commissioner Donovan asked about the type of equipment that would be utilized to complete the work. Staff stated to the Commission that their standard erosion control conditions should apply to this project. Staff commented that establishing a stable vegetative cover with the shaded conditions at the site may pose a challenge. Mr. Nelson replied that a seed mix suited for shady areas would be looked into. Due to Covid-19 meeting regulations the Commission voted to continue the hearing on this issue to June 16, 2021 to allow adequate time for public comments.

Motion to continue to June 16, 2021 was made by Charles Payne and seconded by Brian Nunes. Vote was 5-0 to continue to June 16, 2021.

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

Item 5: Minutes from May 19, 2021

Notes: Commissioner Balcom noted three corrections to the minutes. Staff noted the corrections would be made prior to filing the minutes with the City Clerk.

Motion to approve the minutes with the noted corrections was made by Sharon Balcom and seconded by Meghan Balakier. Vote was 5-0 to approve with the noted corrections.

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

Item 6: Sign Bills – Staff noted there were no bills to sign.

Item 7: Upcoming Projects/Discussion

- **Enforcement Order** – 535 East Main Street – signed copy of contract between Property Owner Mr. Carlos Martins and GZA Environmental to be submitted to the Commission by this meeting. – *Someone to appear before the Commission on June 16, 2021*

Notes: Commissioners asked about the soil sampling process. Staff member Jim Dawson deferred the question to Lee Pouliot due to his experience with soil sampling on other projects in the City. Mr. Pouliot was not in attendance but can provide the Commission with some information by June 16th.

Item 8: Adjournment – Next scheduled meeting is June 16, 2021

Motion to adjourn was made by Meghan Balakier and seconded by Sharon Balcom. Vote was 5-0 to adjourn.

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

Meeting adjourned at 6:55 PM.