

**CITY OF CHICOPEE
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Minutes of Meeting
July 7, 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, July 7, 2021 at 6:15 PM.

Celeste Donovan opened the meeting at 6:17 PM and announced that the meeting was being recorded.

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 and 21; May 5 and 19; and June 2 and 16, 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: The Applicant requested to continue the hearing on this item to August 4, 2021.

Motion to continue to August 4, 2021 was made by Charles Payne and seconded by Meghan Balakier. Vote was 6-0 to continue to August 4, 2021.

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

Item 2: (Cont. from July 1 and 15 and August 5 and 19 and October 7 and November 4, 2020 and June 2, 2021) 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 (Jim) recently spoke with the contractor who is currently completing the outstanding work. Advised him to contact the Planning/Conservation Dept. once the vegetation/grass was established and the site was*

properly stabilized and any other outstanding issues were adequately addressed. (Staff suggest continuing to August 4, 2021 which should be adequate time for stabilization)

Craig Authier present at the meeting; he explained to the Commission that the outstanding issues have been addressed by his contractor. Signs have been installed, construction debris has been removed, silt fence removed and area graded and seeded. Staff noted it will not go out to site for additional inspections until stabilization has occurred and Mr. Authier requests another inspection.

Motion to continue to July 21, 2021 was made by Charles Payne and seconded by Richard Valcourt. Vote was 6-0 to continue to July 21, 2021.

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

Item 3: (Cont. from July 1 and 15 and August 5 and 19 and October 7 and November 4, 2020 and June 2, 2021) 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 (Jim) recently spoke with the contractor who is currently completing the outstanding work. Advised him to contact the Planning/Conservation Dept. once the vegetation/grass was established and the site was properly stabilized and any other outstanding issues were adequately addressed. (Staff suggest continuing to August 4, 2021 which should be adequate time for stabilization)

Craig Authier present at the meeting; he explained to the Commission that the outstanding issues have been addressed by his contractor. Signs have been installed, construction debris has been removed, silt fence removed and area graded and seeded. Staff noted it will not go out to site for additional inspections until stabilization has occurred and Mr. Authier requests another inspection.

Motion to continue to July 21, 2021 was made by Sharon Balcom and seconded by Brian Nunes. Vote was 6-0 to continue to July 21, 2021.

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

Item 4: (New) NOI for a building addition and parking expansion within buffer zone to an Isolated Vegetated Wetland. Location: 650 C Memorial Dr. (Assessor Map 396, Parcel 2), Chicopee, MA 01020. Applicant: L.N. Berneche, 665 Prospect St. Chicopee, MA 01020.

Notes: Ryan Nelson of R. Levesque associates was in attendance to present the NOI to the Commission. The Commission had several concerns with the proposed project and referenced the previous concerns that were brought up when the Applicant was before the Commission as a discussion item. The concerns are as follows; additional pavement where a large area is already paved (shared parking agreements), snow management, gravel being pushed into swale, erosion, delineation (how was it completed?) Staff recommended mitigation as part of any approvals such as restoration of the isolated wetland, replacement of trees and greenspace. Concern about off-site homeless

encampment. Staff noted this is a Health Department issue. Per Staff’s recommendation the Commission continued the NOI to July 21, 2021.

Motion to continue to July 21, 2021 was made by Charles Payne and seconded by Sharon Balcom. Vote was 6-0 to continue to July 21, 2021.

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

Item 5: (New) RDA for an addition to a single-family house. Work will occur within Terrace Escarpment (TE) Soils and TE soils buffer zone as well as within the 100’ wetland buffer. Location: 87 Pendleton Ave., Chicopee, MA 01020. Applicant: Michael Williams, same address.

Notes: Mike Williams presented his RDA to the Commission explaining his proposal to build an addition on his home. The Commission asked various questions of Mr. Williams regarding his proposal to which he replied. The Commission imposed their typical erosion control conditions i.e. requiring straw bales and silt fence along the project disturbance limits and inspection prior to commencement of any site work and prior to any erosion control being removed at the end of the project.

Motion to issue a Positive 5 and 6 as well as a Negative 3 Determination was made by Richard Valcourt and seconded by Sharon Balcom. Vote was 6-0 to issue a Positive 5 and 6 as well as a Negative 3 Determination.

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

Item 6: Minutes from June 16, 2021

Motion to approve was made by Charles Payne and seconded by Meghan Balakier. Vote was 4 in favor, 0 opposed and 2 to abstentions.

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

Item 7: Sign Bills – No bills to sign.

Item 8: Upcoming Projects/Discussion

- **Enforcement Order** – 535 East Main Street – The recipient of the Enforcement Order or a representative to present plan illustrating the boundaries of protected resource areas as they existed prior to the

disturbance and provide documentation on how those boundaries were established. (Next Steps are noted below)

- *On or before July 7, 2021, the Recipient shall submit a draft written document prepared by the consultant, titled “Restoration Plan for 535 East Main Street, Assessor’s Map 152, Parcel 31 A, Chicopee, Massachusetts”, and prepared per the Massachusetts Inland Wetland Replication Guidelines (DEP March 2002).*
 - *On or before July 21, 2021 of the acceptance or modification of this document by the Chicopee Conservation Commission, the Recipient shall cause the Plan to be enacted by installation of all erosion and sedimentation controls required by the Plan. If other resource areas were found to be impacted by the unpermitted work, this information shall also be documented in the report and the Commission reserves the right to require additional mitigation.*
- Celeste read annual notification from waste management into meeting record.
 - Sunflower Ave. – Staff to inquire with the Law Department on any progress.

Item 9: Adjournment – Next scheduled meeting is July 21, 2021

Motion to adjourn was made by Meghan Balakier and seconded by Charles Payne. Vote was 6-0 to adjourn.

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:17 PM.