

**CITY OF CHICOPEE
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Minutes of Meeting
August 3, 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, August 3, 2022 at 6:15 PM in the Chambers Conference Room, City Hall Annex, 4th Floor, 274 Front St., Chicopee, MA 01013

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
Sharon Balcom	X		

Planning/Conservation Staff attendance:

Member	Present	Absent	Excused
Lee Pouliot, Director			X
James Dawson, Development Manager	X		
Nick Kiser, Associate Planner			X

Item 1: NOI for proposed improvements at the Chicopee Reservoir bathhouse to include redesign of an ADA parking area, driveway resurfacing, stormwater management, furnishing, and native tree and perennial plantings. Work will occur within Buffer Zone. Location Chicopee Memorial State Park, 570 Burnett Rd. Chicopee, MA. Applicant: Kate England, Commonwealth of MA, Department of Conservation and Recreation, 251 Causeway St., Suite 900, Boston, MA 02114

Notes: Andrew Keel of HATCH Consultants presented the NOI on behalf of the Applicant. The project is located at the Chicopee Memorial State Park. The project consists of upgrades to the area around the bathhouse and includes reconstructing the access road to the bathhouse area, improvements to the stormwater management in the area, increase handicap parking spaces, removal of two unused paths from parking areas to the bathhouse area, removal of a portion of a concrete parking area, and removal of dead trees and stumps. Removed impervious areas will be replaced with native plantings and turf. Dead trees will be replaced with new native species. Benches will also be provided along the walk from the main parking area to the bathhouse area which is approximately ¼ mile in length. Erosion Control is to consist of compost filled filter socks around the perimeter of the project and silt sacks in catch basins in the vicinity of the project. The Commission attached their typical erosion control conditions to the Order of Conditions. Mr. Keel explained the project is expected to go to bid during the winter of 2022/2023, construction anticipated to begin in spring 2023 with completion in 2024. Staff confirmed with Mr. Keel that this project and the project associated with the dam do not overlap. Per MassDEP as long as the project areas do not overlap the two Orders of Condition can be open at the same time. The Commission was satisfied with Mr. Keel’s presentation and voted to approve the issuance of an Order of Conditions with standard Special Conditions regarding the erosion control.

Motion to approve and issue an Order of Conditions with Special Conditions was made by Richard Valcourt and seconded by Sharon Balcom. Vote was 4-0 to approve and issue an Order of Conditions with Special Conditions.

Member	Approve	Deny	Continue	Abstain
Celeste Donovan	X			
Meghan Balakier	X			
Richard Valcourt	X			
Sharon Balcom	X			

Item 2: Minutes from July 6, 2022

Motion to approve the minutes was made by Richard Valcourt and seconded by Sharon Balcom. Vote was 3 in favor, 0 opposed and 1 abstention. Celeste Donovan abstained as she was not in attendance for the July 6, 2022 meeting.

Member	Approve	Deny	Continue	Abstain
Celeste Donovan				X
Meghan Balakier	X			
Richard Valcourt	X			
Sharon Balcom	X			

Item 3: Sign Bills – The Commission signed one bill.

Item 4: Upcoming Projects/Discussion

Notes:

Information Sessions - Staff explained the Mayor’s Office is proposing to conduct information sessions to inform the public about the purpose of each board/commission in the City. The Conservation Commission was assigned the month of January as its month to conduct a session. The majority of the Commission Members selected January 25, 2023 as the evening that worked best for them.

Q & A session – Commissioners asked Staff to clarify and/or explain differences leading to an applicant filing an RDA as opposed to an NOI. They also asked for clarification on how Determinations are made when responding to an RDA. Staff explained what was involved with each type of application and when one type was filed as opposed to the other. Other Commission discussion dealt with terms that frequently come up in meeting discussions and presentations such as “rip rap” and “country drainage.”

Item 5: Adjournment – Next scheduled meeting is September 7, 2022 since no applications were submitted prior to the deadline for an August 17, 2022 meeting.

Motion to adjourn was made by Sharon Balcom and seconded by Meghan Balakier. Vote was 4-0 to adjourn.

Member	Approve	Deny	Continue	Abstain
Celeste Donovan	X			
Meghan Balakier	X			
Richard Valcourt	X			
Sharon Balcom	X			

Meeting adjourned at 7:45 PM.