

SOUTH HADLEY CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
March 21, 2018

PRESENT: William (Bill) DeLuca, Chair; Jack Fleming, Vice Chair; William (Bill) Bacis, Member; Jim Canning, Member; Neva Tolopko, Member; Alex Krofta, Associate Member; Anne Capra, Conservation Agent/Planner; Kate Wilkins, Tighe & Bond; Devleena Ghosh-Brower, Eversource

The meeting for March 21, 2018 was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Chair DeLuca.

- 1. 6:00 PM PUBLIC HEARING** on Notice of Intent filed by Eversource Energy for maintenance associated with the replacement of select structures and overhead insulators along Line 1447/1428/1327, Utility Right-of-Way from the Connecticut River to the Chicopee town line in South Hadley – Chair DeLuca read the Meeting Notice. Ms. Wilkins of Tighe and Bond introduced herself and Ms. Ghosh-Brower of Eversource. Ms. Wilkins began the presentation explaining that this was a maintenance project along Lines 1447/1428/1327 that have not been worked on for a very long time and described the locations of the three (3) Lines. She discussed the Administrative Consent Order (ACO) under the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). The Conservation Agent explained that the yellow cross-hatched areas were the locations of the work pads and the access road around the pole. In response to a question concerning the overlapping of the trail, the Conservation Agent explained that the poles and guidewires are moving south 20 feet and the trail will also be moved 20' to stay out of the construction zone. Ms. Wilkins stated that they are in coordination with Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program (NHESP) and added that their concerns have to do with rare plants. Ms. Wilkins added that these particular species can be identified in July and August. The NHESP has provided a list of structures to be surveyed. The difference between the different types of mats was discussed. Ms. Ghosh-Brower stated that graded landscape would be permanent and the landscape will be allowed to re-vegetate itself. Ms. Wilkins also noted that there will be no permanent impact to the vegetated wetlands. Ms. Wilkins also explained that access to Structure 7114 is a new access road. In response to a question of the existing terrain if it were shrubs or bushes, Ms. Wilkins stated that its lots of vines, goldenrod, and tons of multi-flora rose. Ms. Ghosh-Brower stated that there would be a five (5) year rotated vegetated management plan. Ms. Wilkins, using a set of previously submitted plans, illustrated and described the areas that were visited during the site visit. A question was asked regarding increasing access for ATVs and motorcycles. Ms. Ghosh-Brower explained that one side was a farming field, and on the other side the wetlands that would make it difficult to access the property. The Commission then discussed the process for matting. With regards to a question concerning keeping the Commission notified, Ms. Ghosh-Brower added that the Commission will be notified for any non-compliance or weather event. She added that any condition for notification that the Commission wants can be added to the Order. The Commission then discussed the trees that were going to be removed adjacent to Orion Farm. Ms. Ghosh-Brower stated that the number of trees to be removed would be less than 100. Utilizing the existing plans, Ms. Wilkins described the access road and other work locations to be completed. The Commission then discussed if the existing poles were in any type of

water and it was determined they were not. In response to the question of adding additional poles, Ms. Ghosh-Brower stated that the poles were going from a wood “H” frame to a steel “H” frame. In response to the question if the access from Alvord Street will be over the existing dirt farm road, Ms. Wilkins replied in the affirmative. Ms. Wilkins added that to the north of the dirt farm road is where they will access the structures. She also explained why they needed the waiver under the local bylaw– crossing the wetlands. Ms. Wilkins stated that there was no work associated with structure 1140, and structure 1141 is scheduled for insulator replacement. Ms. Wilkins explained that structure 1144 and 8115 will be just flat matted, no grading is proposed. She noted that there will be extensive cutting and grading for the structures up on the high knoll surrounded by wetlands. It was noted that the area would be returned to its existing grade and re-vegetated. The suggestion that the area be stabilized by shrubs was discussed. Ms. Ghosh-Brower stated that the knoll would be stabilized with blankets and then they will come back the following year to vegetate. In response to an inquiry of how the work was to be performed, Ms. Ghosh-Brower stated that the work would be performed in phases and added that outage from 5/31 to 9/30 is the longest construction window. It was noted that it would be beneficial to have a table that shows the permanent and temporary impact to the area. Ms. Wilkins said that they would be happy to submit the table as a supplemental document. Ms. Ghosh-Brower in response to a question from an abutter stated that Eversource is charged \$19 per minute as a cost for a line being down. In response to a size of the poles inquiry, Ms. Ghosh-Brower replied the diameter of the poles is five (5) feet. **Motion:** Commissioner Canning moved and Commissioner Bacis seconded the motion to continue the Public Hearing to April 11, 2018 at 6:45 p.m. The Commission voted **Five (5)** out of **Five (5)** members present in favor of the motion.

2. **Discuss and Consider** Eversource TRRP Line 1327/14228 Order of Conditions (BYLAW ONLY), permitted August 2017 Scope of Work Modifications – Conservation Agent asked Ms. Ghosh-Brower if she would like to comment on the TRRP. Ms. Ghosh-Brower described the work completed and wanted to notify the Commission of the decrease of clearing of 0.08 acres. **Motion:** Commission Vice Chair Fleming moved and Commissioner Bacis seconded the motion to approve the modification to the Scope of Work for the Order of Conditions. The Commission voted **Five (5)** out of **Five (5)** members present in favor of the motion.
3. **6:45 PM PUBLIC HEARING** on a Request for Determination by Chicopee Concrete Services, Inc. for review of whether an area is under the jurisdiction of the Wetland Protection Act and/or the local Wetlands Bylaw, 394 Hadley Street (Assessor’s Map 56 Parcel 26) – The Conservation Agent stated that the Commission was not able to conduct the site visit due to snow cover. She added that Chicopee Concrete Services, Inc. are seeking an RDA to determine the wetland delineation. The Conservation Agent added that they have not submitted any plans for work. She stated that the Commission should open the Public Hearing and immediately continue it. **Motion:** Commissioner Tolopko moved and Commission Vice Chair Fleming seconded the motion to continue the Public Hearing until April 11, 2018 at 6:30 p.m. to allow the Commissioners an opportunity to walk the property. The Commission voted **Five (5)** out of **Five (5)** members present in favor of the motion.
4. **Discuss and Consider** Order of Conditions 288-434 Extension Request for Hillcrest Park Condominium Pond for continued maintenance of aquatic vegetation, 20 Lawrence Avenue

(Assessor's Map 16 Parcel 185) – The Conservation Agent explained the current Order of Conditions is for lawn mowing, maintenance, and treatments to the pond. She added they are seeking an extension for three (3) years which will cause the Order of Conditions to expire July 8, 2021. **Motion:** Commissioner Canning moved and Commissioner Bacis seconded the motion to issue a three (3) year extension for OOC 288-434 for continued maintenance of aquatic weeds, expiring July 8, 2021. The Commission voted **Five (5)** out of **Five (5)** members present in favor of the motion.

5. **Discuss and Consider** Approval of Meeting Minutes from February 28, 2018 – Several Commissioners said they read the minutes on line and that they looked fine. **Motion:** Commission Tolopko moved and Commission Vice Chair Fleming seconded the motion to approve the minutes of February 28, 2018. The Commission voted **Five (5)** out of **Five (5)** members present in favor of the motion.
6. **Administrator's Report** (including updates on projects, violations, next meeting dates, and correspondence log

Black Stevens Conservation Area Baseline Document Report Community Meeting – The Conservation Agent stated that she appreciated the three (3) attendees (and the Commissioners) that showed up for the meeting. She stated that she mailed 166 postcards, 30 people took the on-line survey, and three (3) people called her. The Conservation Agent explained that with this type of interest it doesn't make sense to hold meetings for all the Town's conservation areas. Commission Chair DeLuca suggested some way to condense the 14 meetings down to two (2) or three (3). The Conservation Agent suggested meeting in the fall and discuss general overview and highlight recommendations that pertain to all the properties. Commissioner Canning suggested that the Commissioners could share in the workload. The Conservation Agent stated that the Bynan Conservation area is next and that she hopes to do the site visit after the snow clears.

Pet Waste in Gormally Conservation Area – A complaint about bagged dog poop being left roadside at Gormally was submitted to the Board of Health, which forward it to the Planning and Conservation Department. Commission Vice Chair Fleming noted that he and a former Commissioner discussed this situation coming under the Town's General Bylaw with the Town Administrator. Commission Vice Chair Fleming also stated that the Town Administrator is in full agreement that this situation comes under the Town's General Bylaw. The Conservation Agent stated that this is likely a resident that lives on San Souci and suggested mailing a letter to all the residents. The Commissioners also discussed the residents of the homes on Alvord Street and the condominiums on Alvord as contributors as well. The Conservation Agent also suggested the posting of signs.

Mount Holyoke College Interns – The Conservation Agent stated that three (3) candidates have applied for the Intern position and explained each one's education background. She added that the Bike Walk Committee has been pushing for Conservation to use the Interns for trail mapping, management, and to update the website. The Conservation Agent stated that while three (3) Interns applied; only two (2) will be offered a Summer Internship.

Erosion Problems at New Middle School Playground – The Conservation Agent stated that Commissioner Bacis brought in some pictures of erosion problems around the new

playground and equipment at the Middle School. She explained that when she went for a site visit with Dr. Young and Jeff Cyr in the fall 2017, the proposed work was outside of the buffer zone so no permitting would be required. The Conservation Agent explained that now, it appears to be slightly inside the buffer zone. She added that there was sheet flow on the downslope draining into Stony Brook. The Conservation Agent stated that she met with the School's Groundskeeper Bruce Mailhott and he advised that they would put in a silt fence and hay bales and when the ground is thawed, they will install a perimeter drain, seed and mulch. Commission Bacis then showed the Conservation Agent pictures of the arboretum adjacent to the school.

South Hadley High School – The Conservation Agent stated that she met with Principal Diana Bonneville and a member of the science department to discuss the Black Stevens Management Plan and the trash along the fence. She added that a group of students will participate in a cleanup of their property into Black Stevens. Ms. Bonneville indicated that the students would like to work in the Conservation Areas. The Conservation Agent suggested maybe have the students attend a classroom about trail maintenance from a professional. They were very receptive and even suggested that it could be worked into their career day.

7. **Other New Business** (topics which the Chair could not reasonably expect to be discussed/considered as of the date of this notice)

Commission Bacis inquired about Arbor Day. The Conservation Agent stated that time on Arbor Day would need to be programmed based on the work plan programmed for the year as it had not been discussed previously. The Commissioners explained to the Conservation Agent the Arbor Day festivities. The Conservation Agent stated that she has not been contacted by any of the previous partners involved in the past. After discussion the Conservation Agent suggested that the Commissioners could contact the partners they worked with in past years on the event to see if anyone was working on this for this year, and contact the Tree Warden. Commissioner Canning offered to contact Linda Young.

Friday, March 23rd at 9:00 a.m. is the scheduled site visit to 311 River Road. The Commissioners then discussed how to get there and parking location information.

The Commission then discussed the potential mitigation for the Eversource project.

8. **ADJOURNMENT**

Commission Chair DeLuca adjourned the meeting at approximately 8:26 p.m.

Respectfully submitted
Doris Leclair, Senior Clerk
Planning & Conservation

Attachment A

List of Documents Reviewed in March 21, 2018 Conservation Commission Meeting

| <u><i>Document</i></u> | <u><i>Record Location</i></u> |
|-----------------------------|--|
| Conservation Meeting Agenda | Conservation Agenda & Minutes Binder |
| Administrator Notes | Conservation Agenda & Minutes Binder Individual Project Files |
| Minutes | Conservation Agenda & Minutes Book Individual Project Files |
| Sign In Sheet | Conservation Agenda & Minutes Binder |