

**SOUTH HADLEY CONSERVATION COMMISSION**  
**MEETING MINUTES**  
**May 23, 2018**

**PRESENT:** William (Bill) DeLuca, Chair; William (Bill) Bacis, Member; Jim Canning, Member; Neva Tolopko, Member; Alex Krofta, Associate Member; Anne Capra, Conservation Administrator/Planner; Pete Westover, Conservation Works; Greg Henson, The Berkshire Design Group

The meeting for May 23, 2018 was called to order at 5:58 p.m. by Conservation Chair DeLuca. Since there was available time before the 6:00 p.m. Public Meeting, it was the consensus of the Commission to proceed with Agenda Item 4.

4. **Discuss and Consider** request to extend Order of Conditions #288-435 by Katherine Ballantine, MHC Restoration Ecology Program, for the completion of boardwalks and pedestrian bridge across the stream and connect trail to existing loop trail, off Silver Street (Assessor's Map 49, Parcel 30) – The Conservation Administrator stated that Mount Holyoke College had received their Order of Conditions in 2015 and that they will be coming to the next meeting to amend their Order of Conditions. Utilizing a project plan the Administrator showed the Commissioners where the boardwalk will be and where they will add an accessible ramp. She noted that the site is well vegetated and that the work is continuing. The Administrator reiterated that the College is only looking for an extension to their Order of Conditions at this time and that they would like to have a site visit completed prior to the June meeting. **Motion:** Commissioner Bacis moved and Commissioner Canning seconded the motion to issue a three (3) year extension to Order of Conditions #288-435 for Project Stream at Mount Holyoke College. The Commission voted **Four (4)** out of **Four (4)** members present in favor of the motion.
  
1. **6:00 P.M. PUBLIC MEETING** on a Request for Determination by Amanda and Jason Walker for construction of a 20' x 20' addition to a single-family home, 11 Ashton Lane (Assessor's Map 30, Parcel 142) – Commission Chair DeLuca read the Meeting Notice. The Administrator stated that she sent the Commissioners a parcel map and a picture of the house on the relatively small lot. She added that the wetland layer doesn't show any wetlands on the property, but it does show an intermittent stream at the rear of the property and added that from the rear of the house to the property line is 92 feet. The Commissioners also discussed the addition's foundation. **Motion:** Commissioner Canning moved and Commissioner Bacis seconded the motion to issue a Negative Determination #3, work is within the Buffer Zone but will not alter an Area subject to protection under the Act. The Commission voted **Four (4)** out of **Four (4)** members present in favor of the motion.
  
2. **6:15 P.M. PUBLIC MEETING** on a Request for Determination by Town of South Hadley for trail improvements and construction of a parking lot for the Leaping Well Nature Trail at the Toth Property Mosier Street (Assessor's Map 38, Parcel 38; Map 38, Parcel 19) – Commission Chair DeLuca read the Meeting Notice. Mr. Westover of Conservation Works showed the Commissioners the location of the proposed parking lot and trail on an existing plan. He explained that there were two (2) plans they reviewed. One (1) plan would have a

pressure treated frame supported on common marine dock hardware for the boardwalk. Mr. Westover added it would be 3' wide deck of 2 x 4" pressure treated boards spaced 1½" apart and the deck height is under 30" so railings are not required. He stated that the other plan calls for fibergrate but it was too expensive and would cause the project to go over budget. The Commission then discussed the 10 car parking lot utilizing the existing pull over. The Commissioners then discussed signage, brush cutting, slopes, swales, how the school was going to gain access to the trail, and whether or not cost estimates were in writing. **Motion:** Commissioner Bacis moved and Commissioner Canning seconded the motion to issue a Negative Determination #2 work described in the Request is within an area subject to protection under the Act but will not remove, fill, dredge, or alter that area; and Negative Determination #3, work is within the Buffer Zone but will not alter an Area subject to protection under the Act. The Commission voted **Four (4)** out of **Four (4)** members present in favor of the motion.

3. **6:30 P.M. PUBLIC MEETING** on a Request for Determination by Pioneer Valley Performing Arts Charter Public School for full-depth reclamation and reconstruction of the main parking lot and two auxiliary parking lots and, the addition of parallel parking on the east side of the two entrance driveways, at 15 Mulligan Drive (Assessor's Map 42, Parcel 71) – Commission Chair DeLuca read the Meeting Notice. A colored version of the site plan was distributed to the Commissioners and the Administrator by Greg Henson of Berkshire Design Group. Mr. Henson described the work to be performed and added that the only additional pavement would be the parking spaces on the east side of both driveways. He explained that the construction would stay in the existing footprint, and then illustrated on the site plan the location of four (4) drainage systems that cross the parking lot and are discharging into a wetland area. Mr. Henson stated that it has now been decided to replace the drain lines. He noted that they will also be adding some electrical conduit. The Commissioners then additionally discussed what the pipes looked like, the size of the pipes, discharge location, and type of riprap to be used. The Commissioners discussed trees and mowing schedules before suggesting to Mr. Henson the planting of six (6) 2" caliper native trees. The Administrator suggested that the placement of the trees be left to the engineers due to their knowledge of underground infrastructure on the site. **Motion:** Commissioner Canning moved and Commissioner Bacis seconded the motion to issue a Negative Determination #3, work is within the Buffer Zone but will not alter an Area subject to protection under the Act. The Commission voted **Four (4)** out of **Four (4)** members present in favor of the motion.
  
5. **Discuss and Consider** River to Range Trail Phase II, Bachelor-Stony Brook Conservation Area, Hadley Street – The Administrator stated that this is an existing parking lot off of Hadley Street, and then explained the parking lot's size and location. The Administrator then explained what Phase II construction would entail at the various locations. She also explained the key to the map they were reviewing, i.e. what the colored lines meant and the star to denote the location of a kiosk. That Administrator stated that the parking lot will go out to bid for construction and that S-1 to S-7 trail realignment would be completed by the Student Conservation Association Americorps. The Commission also discussed whether to allow or restrict mountain bikes. The Administrator stated that she would be submitting the Request for Determination at the next scheduled meeting.

6. **Discuss and Consider** Pickle Memorial Bench at Bynan Conservation Area – The Administrator explained that there were differing accounts of available funds for Lin Pickle’s bench. She added that she went to the Town Accountant and he advised that there was \$500 from Conservation monies included for the bench. She has contacted Lin Pickle’s widow to advise her that there was money available after all for the plaque. When Mrs. Pickle was asked about where the remaining money should go she suggested that it go towards cleaning up the trails. The Administrator stated that she has moved the remaining money into the available funds for winter storm damage/tree work on conservation lands specifically to be spent at Bynan.
7. **Discuss and Consider** winter storm damage clean up in conservation areas – The Administrator explained that as requested in Agenda Item #6 by Mrs. Pickle, she was contracting with a tree service that will spend ½ day of tree clearing at Bagg Pierce and ½ day of tree clearing work at Bynan. She added the tree work was made possible by a combination of remainder of funds from the donations for the bench and Conservation’s unspent funds from the FY18 Budget. The Administrator noted that the work would be done by June 15, 2018.
8. **Discuss and Consider** Approval of Meeting Minutes from April 11, 2018 and May 2, 2018 – When queried by the Administrator, the Commissioners replied that they have not had a chance to review the meeting minutes. The Administrator stated that since the Minutes were from April and May, they would definitely need to be reviewed at the next meeting.
9. **Administrator’s Report** (including updates on projects, violations, next meeting dates, and correspondence log – The Administrator informed the Commissioners that Dr. Mugg has a new attorney who has advised him to implement the restoration and complete a Notice of Intent. The Administrator was asked by Dr. Mugg’s attorney if mitigation for additional work could be a Conservation Restriction on the property, which was discussed with the Commissioners. She suggested that a Conservation Restriction that permitted a pedestrian path by the river might be considered. She was also asked if the wood chips could stay where they are. The Administrator responded that the Enforcement Order reads that Conservation wants the Notice of Intent filed by July 3, 2018. The Commissioners and Administrator then discussed the difference between a Conservation Easement and a right-of-way and the benefits of each.
10. **Other New Business** (topics which the Chair could not reasonably expect to be discussed/considered as of the date of this notice) – The Administrator stated that Commission Vice Chair Fleming is leaving after the meeting in June, and suggested a luncheon for him to thank him for all his work. All of the Commissioners were in favor of the luncheon, but Commission Chair DeLuca was uncertain of his summer schedule.

Commissioner Canning stated that he was interested in another three (3) year term.

**11. ADJOURNMENT**

Conservation Chair DeLuca closed the meeting at approximately 7:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Doris Leclair, Senior Clerk  
Planning & Conservation

Attachment A

List of Documents Reviewed in May 23, 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
South Hadley Ecological Assessment (Conway School Student Team)	Conservation Administrator/Planner, Room 204
Minutes	Conservation Agenda & Minutes Book Individual Project Files
Sign In Sheet	Conservation Agenda & Minutes Binder