

SOUTH HADLEY CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
August 1, 2018

PRESENT: William (Bill) DeLuca, Chair (arrived at 6:15 p.m.); Jim Canning, Vice Chair; William (Bill) Bacis, Member; Neva Tolopko, Member; Alex Krofta, Associate Member; Anne Capra, Conservation Administrator/Planner; David Cote, WMYC & 15 members; Brenda Griffin; Aldo Villani; Harriet Finkle; Devleena Ghosh-Brower, Eversource

The meeting for August 1, 2018 was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Commissioner Canning. Commissioner Canning explained to the audience that the Chair was running late, but would be in attendance soon.

- 1. 6:00 P.M. PUBLIC HEARING** on Notice of Intent #288-0454 by Western Mass Yacht Club for demolition of existing clubhouse, and construction of a new clubhouse at 22 Cove Island Road (Assessor's Map 22, Parcel 1) – Commissioner Canning read the Meeting Notice and invited the applicant to begin his presentation to the Commission. David Cote of Western MA Yacht Club introduced himself and explained the project. Mr. Cote stated that they have been working with the Fish & Wildlife since June and have been presented an award. The Commission also discussed the award, the Yacht Club's continued removal of water chestnuts in the Cove, and the u-shaped gravel driveway and the native vegetation plantings in the center. **Motion:** Commissioner Tolopko moved and Commissioner Bacis seconded the motion to issue an Order of Conditions for #288-0454 for the demolition of an existing clubhouse, construction of a new 1-story, 1,034 sq. ft. and construction of 100' linear feet of new gravel driveway, with conditions for restoring the center of the driveway with native vegetation and removal of water chestnut from the South Hadley Cove. The Commission voted **Three (3)** out of **Three (3)** members present in favor of the motion. The Public Hearing was then closed.

Because there was time remaining that was allotted to the 6:00 p.m. Public Hearing, the Administrator suggested the Commission go to Agenda Item #5 or Agenda Item #6. The Commissioners indicated their agreement.

- 5. Discuss and Consider** Status of Orchards Golf Club OOC #288-0399 and NOI #288-0445 – (Bill DeLuca arrived at 6:15 p.m.) The Administrator stated that the last time Orchards came before the Commission was a year ago. She added that she had a meeting with Mickey Marcus from SWCA and Jodi Lauzier from The Orchards to discuss the status of the project. The Administrator explained that the Club has contracted with SWCA to take over where Pete Westover left off. The next steps are to evaluate the Order of Conditions that they have for maintenance, which has since expired. The Administrator noted that they want to file a Certificate of Compliance or a Partial Certificate of Compliance for that Order and then file a formal withdrawal for Notice of Intent (NOI) #288-0445. The Administrator explained that they would then file a new NOI for maintenance work and restoration work. She noted that some of the work that they want to continue will require an Army Corps of Engineers 401 Water Quality Certificate, to be filed jointly with their new NOI. Mickey requested that the Commission open the hearing for the NOI and then continue it until

comments have been received from Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) in Boston. Since Mickey has suggested a site visit now while the conditions are good, the Administrator would contact the Commissioners with a date and time.

2. **6:30 P.M. PUBLIC MEETING** on a Request for Determination by the Town of South Hadley for maintenance and improvements to the Bachelor Brook North Trail at the Bachelor Brook-Stony Brook Conservation Area off Hadley Street (Assessor's Map 53, Parcels 1 and 12) – Commission Chair DeLuca read the Meeting Notice. The Administrator stated that she was representing the Town. In explaining the site map to the Commissioners, she noted that the dotted green line represented the re-routing of the trail off private property and onto Town land and noted where the various map keys were located. The Administrator stated that most of the work is outside Riverfront area, and that there will be four (4) crossings. Two (2) crossings are existing and two (2) are new crossings. The specifications for the crossings and trail are the same at Bachelor Brook South and Leaping Well Nature Trail. The Commissioners also discussed directional signage, maintenance, the overlooks, snowmobiles/atvs, cell tower placements, and any additional phases. Brenda Griffin, 220 Hadley Street discussed her concerns about motorized vehicles, the disturbance to wildlife, if hunting would be allowed, littering, and security. **Motion:** Commissioner Canning moved and Commissioner Bacis seconded the motion to issue a Negative Determination #2 – the work is within an area subject to protection under the Act, but will not remove, fill, dredge or alter that area, therefore a Notice of Intent is not required. The Commission voted **Four (4)** out of **Four (4)** members present in favor of the motion.
3. **7:00 P.M. Discuss and Consider** Proposed Amendment to Order of Conditions #288-0452 Eversource Line 1447/1428/1327 – Devleena Ghosh-Brower of Eversource re-introduced herself to the Commissioners. Copies of the revised map set were distributed to the Commissioners. Ms. Ghosh-Brower explained to the Commissioners that the top map set shows the work that was approved by the Commission and the bottom map set shows the proposed changes for additional work. Ms. Ghosh Brower stated that sheet #9 showed extensive matting, but after meeting with the property owner they have revised the matting required. She then went on to explain the work that was to be added and that they would stay out of the resource areas. In discussions regarding the cornfield, Ms. Ghosh-Brower stated that the cornfield will be disturbed for emergencies only. She explained that pole 1119 was entirely within 100' buffer zone as was the access road leading to it. The Commissioners also questioned the amount of excavation on the project. In response to a question Ms. Ghosh-Brower stated that pole work was based on Eversource inspections. She also explained that on Sheet 10, 7118 is slated for replacement so that the cornfield and wetlands only have to be disturbed once. Ms. Ghosh-Brower stated to access the remaining poles would be from Alvord Road. She continued noting that the height of 1120 and 1122 would be raised and that there would be only flat matting with no earth work. She explained the changes that were made on Sheet 11. Ms. Ghosh-Brower then noted that Sheet 12 shows where they are replacing the insulators north of the Pine Shed Substation. The Administrator suggested a public meeting, which the Commissioners were agreeable to. The Commissioners then discussed their schedules to participate in a site visit and agreed on August 10, 2018.

An audience member inquired if 440 Amherst Road would be discussed. The Administrator stated that the Commission was not accepting comments from the public at this time. She added

that this Agenda Item was to advise the Commissioners where the applicant was in the process. The Administrator noted that once the NOI was submitted a Public Hearing would be scheduled at which time the public could voice their questions/comments.

4. **Discuss and Consider** Status of Enforcement Order for 440 Amherst Road – The Administrator stated that the applicant submitted his NOI which was completed by his excavation contractor (no longer working with Ward Smith, PWS). She explained that the application was incomplete and highlighted where additional information was needed and provided him with a detailed list of instructions of things he needs to do i.e., legal ad, abutter notifications, submittal to DEP as well as submittal to NHESP. The Commissioners then discussed who the survey was completed by and suggested a telephone call to the applicant. The Administrator replied that she has left messages and that the applicant is not responding. After discussion it was the consensus of the Commissioners that it's up to the applicant to submit the properly completed paperwork.

6. **Discuss and Consider** Invasive Species Removal at Bachelor Brook-Stony Brook Conservation Area - The Administrator explained that a contract has been issued to Land Stewardship for the treatment of invasive species along the edge of the River to Range Trail. She added that a Notice to Proceed should be mailed this week.

7. **Discuss and Consider** Approval of Meeting Minutes from May 23, 2018 and June 13, 2018 – It was the consensus of the Commissioners to approve the minutes. **Motion:** Commissioner Bacis moved and Commissioner Tolopko seconded the motion to approve the minutes of May 23, 2018 and June 13, 2018. The Commission voted **Four (4)** out of **Four (4)** members present in favor of the motion.

8. **Administrator's Report** (including updates on projects, violations, next meeting dates, and correspondence log) – The Administrator had the following to share with the Commissioners:

Emerald Ash Borer – DCR released biocontrol for the Emerald Ash Borer at Bachelor Brook last week and explained what the biocontrol consisted of.

Buttery Brook Stream Team Assessment – Members of the Redevelopment Authority have engaged the Connecticut River Conservancy to work with the Town to conduct a visual assessment of BATTERY Brook. This has been scheduled for August 31, 2018 with training at the South Hadley Public Library. Afterwards participants will be broken into teams of two (2) or three (3). These teams, in turn, will be sent out to do visual assessments of the brook at specific locations. They are also planning on participating in the Connecticut River Conservancy's Source to Sea Cleanup in September. There are approximately 20 volunteers signed up so far.

Water Chestnut Removal - Cynthia Boettner has been coordinating the water chestnut removal in the valley and various sites in South Hadley, but she is retiring this year and is looking for volunteers to take over. A site visit has been scheduled for August 22, 2018 at 9:00 a.m.

Go4Life Stroll – The Bike Walk Committee and the Council on Aging are hosting a low mobility walk for all ages at the River to Range Trail on Sunday, September 16, 2018 from 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. They have asked Conservation to set up a table with trail maps and any other materials the Commission would like to share with the public. They are also looking for guides around the trail to speak about birds, ecology and history. Interested members should contact the Administrator.

Conservation Area Management Plans – The intern, Aviva North and the Administrator have been working on Baseline Document Reports and Management Plans for Bynan and Bagg Pierce. Plans are being prepped for all the other properties as well. The Administrator anticipates completing the plans this Fall. Due to dense thorny vegetation at some of the sites, she may need to wait until after leaf fall to complete the site visits.

Bachelor Brook South Trail – The Americorps Student Conservation Association completed their 10-day hitch on July 25, 2018 and have installed two (2) crossings, bog bridging, and two (2) trail re-routes. A Request for Proposal (RFP) has been issued for a professional trail builder to build the final re-route of the trail to connect to the Loop Trail off Ferry Street and are due Monday, August 6, 2018. The Administrator explained that she is working on an Invitation to Bid (IFB) for the re-construction of the parking lot and trailhead off Route 47. She added that she hopes to have that issued shortly, and construction to begin this Fall.

Leaping Well Nature Trail at Toth – The Administrator explained that she has been assigned project manager to oversee the construction of the trail and parking lot by Mike Sullivan. An IFB has been issued and bids are due by August 3, 2018. She added that an IFB for construction of the parking lot and trailhead need to be issued as well and construction is anticipated for the Fall.

9. **Other New Business** (topics which the Chair could not reasonably expect to be discussed/considered as of the date of this notice) – Commission Chair stated that Stephanie Kilmer (sp?) would be interviewed by the Selectboard for the Commission seat left vacant by the retirement of Jack Fleming.
10. **ADJOURNMENT** – Commission Chair DeLuca closed the meeting at approximately 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Doris Leclair, Senior Clerk
Planning & Conservation

Attachment A

List of Documents Reviewed in August 1, 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