

SOUTH HADLEY CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
October 3, 2018

PRESENT: Bill DeLuca, Chair; Jim Canning, Vice-Chair; William (Bill) Bacis, Member; Neva Tolopko, Member; Stephanie Clymer, Member; Anne Capra, Conservation Administrator/Planner; Pat Spring; Lenard Finkowski; Melissa Coady, Tighe and Bond; other attendees (see attached sign in sheet)

The meeting for October 3, 2018 was called to order at 6:03 p.m. by Commission Chair DeLuca.

- 1. Discuss and Consider** Request for Minor Modification to Order of Conditions #288-0434 for Management of Nuisance Aquatic Vegetation at Hillcrest Park Condominium Pond by Solitude Lake Management for herbicide treatment to cattails on 20 Lawrence Ave/Hillcrest Park (Map 16, Parcels 185)

The Conservation Administrator presented the background about the project. Solitude Lake Management is the consultant performing regular herbicide treatment for nuisance aquatic weeds (pondweed and elodea species as well as duckweed and algae) under this OOC. They are requesting a “minor modification” to the OOC to treat cattails with three herbicides approved by EPA, MDAR and MassDEP for reeds: AquaPro (glyphosphate), Habitat (imazapyr), and Clearcast (imazamox). Jim Canning and Anne Capra conducted a site visit on 9/24/18. Cattails are encroaching on the inlet side of the pond. Len Finkowski, Hillcrest Park Condominiums manager stated the pond has become more shallow, particularly at the inlet end, due to the root system of the cattails grabbing sediment and allowing organic matter to build up. They are seeking to push bag the cattails to prevent them from spreading throughout the pond.

Commissioner Tolopko asked how the pond was used. Mr. Finkowski stated that it is not used for recreation. Commissioner Canning stated that removing the cattails would improve the condition of the pond. The Commissioners discussed the possibility of hand pulling versus herbicide use. Mr. Finkowski said previous price quotes made mechanical harvesting unfeasible for the condo association.

Motion: Commissioner Canning moved and Commissioner Tolopko seconded the motion to allow a Request for Determination permit process for treatment of the cattails with herbicides or by hand pulling. The Commissioners voted **Five (5)** out of **Five (5)** members present in favor of the motion.

- 2. PUBLIC MEETING** on Request for Determination by P. Spring Realty LLC for roadway reclamation, paving and drainage improvements on River Lodge Road (Map 44, Parcels 69-82)

Pat Spring stated that he had consulted with concrete contractor about repair of the headwall at the paved stormwater flume, but they have decided to not repair the headwall where the concrete has fallen off the face of it but rather to back fill behind the failed wall with rip rap, as well as pour a rip rap slope down the front of it that the stormwater can pour over. Mr. Spring submitted a plan to the Commissioners at the meeting of this approach, however, the plan does not have the concrete headwall on it, nor does it offer any details about existing conditions including the extent of the headwall or delineation of the wetland and any other resources at the location. The plan was developed by Mr. Spring’s surveyor, not a Professional Engineer. Commissioner DeLuca stated that this additional information is needed for the Commission to understand what

type of stormwater system is needed at this location. The Conservation Administrator stated that she had spoken to Mark Stinson at DEP about the project and that he said if it is an unpermitted stormwater outfall, it needs to be brought into compliance which could be done through either a RFD or NOI depending upon site conditions and the system being proposed. Mr. Spring stated that addressing the stormwater outfall is beyond his scope of work and would be turning over that work to the road owner, Riverboat Apartments, for further design and permitting. Commissioner DeLuca allowed the audience to ask questions. Several people spoke about the poor condition of the road and discussed the merits of having the repaving done sooner versus later. Questions were asked about what is needed for the Town to accept the road as a public way. Commissioner DeLuca said that was beyond the scope of this meeting and the Conservation Commission. Mr. Spring asked if he could begin road reconstruction work at the end near Alvord Street. Commissioner DeLuca stated that any work outside of the 100' Buffer Zone of a wetland was outside of our jurisdiction. The Conservation Administrator stated that Mr. Spring should consult with the other Town departments to make sure he had whatever permits he needed to begin that work. Commissioner DeLuca stated that in order for the Commission to further review the project, a plan developed by a Professional Engineer was needed, and existing site conditions needed to be on the plan including the headwall, wetlands, and any other resources.

Motion: Commissioner Canning moved and Commissioner Tolopko seconded the motion to continue the meeting until November 14, 2018 at 6pm. The Commissioners voted **Five (5)** out of **Five (5)** members present in favor of the motion.

3. PUBLIC HEARING on Amended Order of Conditions #288-0452 Line 1447/1428/1327 Structure Replacement Project by Eversource Energy for relocating structure 1121 seventy feet to the south of the planned replacement location at Stony Brook (Map 45, Parcel 23) Melissa Coady from Tighe and Bond presented the change in plans proposed for the Amendment. The proposed relocation of structure 1121 will move it further away from Stony Brook to the south by 70'. This change will result in 26 sq.ft. of new permanent impact to wetland at this location, however the pole will be further away from river bank which at this location, appears to be in jeopardy of an oxbow formation which could result in the main stem of the river flowing around this pole and destabilizing it in the near future. The Commissioners discussed their recollection of this location and how relocating the pole away from the river would be beneficial. Commissioner Bacis asked if the caisson could be left in place to minimize disturbance. Ms. Coady described how removing it is the preferred option since the river is likely to erode around the caisson if left in place. She said the soils excavated from the new pole hole will be used as mitigation in the place where the caisson is removed, thereby utilizing the existing seed bank and native materials.

Motion: Commissioner Tolopko moved and Commissioner Bacis seconded the motion to issue an Amended Order of Conditions #288-0452. The Commissioners voted **Five (5)** out of **Five (5)** members present in favor of the motion.

4. Discuss and Consider Approval of Meeting Minutes from September 12, 2018
Commissioner Tolopko moved and Commissioner Canning seconded the motion to approve the minutes of September 12, 2018. The Commissioners voted **Five (5)** out of **Five (5)** members present in favor of the motion.

5. Administrator's Report

440 Amherst Road NOI – I received a call from Ward Smith regarding plans for mitigation. Ward stated that Dr. Mugg would like to move forward with a plan for mitigation that involves

filling the isolated wetland at the toe of the slope and replicating it elsewhere on the property. Ward asked if that would be permissible. I stated that any such proposal would need to be accompanied by a detailed plan to illustrate the work to be accomplished and how it would comply with both the WPA and Wetlands Bylaw. Ward said he would need to hire a surveyor to map 1' contours on the site. I informed him that the 50' Conservation Zone still needs to be addressed in this proposal. He was unsure if they would have plans ready by the October 24th public hearing continuance date.

Invasive Plant Species Treatment at Bachelor Brook-Stony Brook Conservation Area – River to Range Trail – Land Stewardship Inc has completed a Habitat Management Plan and submitted to NHESP regarding the rare plant species in the zone proposed for treatment of invasive species. NHESP is currently reviewing the plan. A copy is being sent with the admin notes email.

Eversource Certificate of Compliance Line 1327/1428 TRRP – Eversource has requested a COC for this project which involved line clearing in their outer ROW this past year. A site visit is set for Friday 10/5 at 9am, meeting at the Pineshed Substation.

NEXT MEETINGS: October 24th, November 14th, December 5th, December 19th

6. **Other New Business** (topics which the Chair could not reasonably expect to be discussed/considered as of the date of this notice) – There was no new business brought before the Commission.
7. **ADJOURNMENT** Commission Chair DeLuca adjourned the meeting at 7:35pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne Capra, Conservation Administrator/Planner

Attachment A

List of Documents Reviewed in October 3, 2018 Conservation Commission Meeting

<u>Document</u>	<u>Record Location</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
Aerial Photos of Hillcrest Pond Hillcrest Pond Condominiums 20 Lawrence Ave	Project File
Stormwater Structure Design Riverlodge Road	Project File