

SOUTH HADLEY CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES – Bylaw Review
March 13, 2019

PRESENT: Bill DeLuca, Chair; Jim Canning, Vice-Chair; William (Bill) Bacis, Member; Neva Tolopko, Member; Anne Capra, Conservation Administrator/Planner; Marilyn Gass, resident; Hattie Finkel, resident; Debbie Boehner, resident

The meeting for March 13, 2019 was called into order a 5:00 pm by Chair DeLuca.

Discuss and Consider Amendments to South Hadley Wetlands Bylaw Chapter 240 to improve water supply protection

Commissioner DeLuca began the discussion by expressing his desire that the Commission focus their limited time and resources to review and amendment of the Wetlands Bylaw because it is the local bylaw that they have jurisdiction over. He further stated that the Planning Board has permitting jurisdiction over the Water Supply Protection Overlay District (WSPOD) through the bylaw. He noted it would be great to offer the Planning Board comments on how the water supply could be better protected, but it shouldn't be our primary focus.

Commissioner Tolopko stated that she had spent considerable time researching how other towns regulate their water supply districts, and has developed detailed amendments to that bylaw, and gathered other guidance materials, which the Conservation Administrator previously shared via email with the Commissioners as background for this meeting. For example, in Longmedow, their Wetlands Bylaw includes a requirement that the location of public water supplies be shown on plans. In Sharon, their bylaws reference specific standards for projects within public water supplies.

Commissioner DeLuca said he did some quick GIS analysis of the Zone II to the Dry Brook Well to generate a sense of the size of the area relative to the rest of South Hadley. According to DeLuca, South Hadley is 11,800 acres, and the Zone II to the Dry Brook Well is 350 acres, of which 150 acres are already protected.

The Commissioners discussed the geographic extent of the current Zone II, Zone III, WSPOD, and the Bachelor Brook watershed, and talked about the relationship between them. It appears that the current WSPOD may be the watershed delineation of Bachelor Brook. They discussed the pros and cons of changing the extent of the WSPOD. Commissioner Canning said he felt the WSPOD needed to correspond to a physical area that people could understand so that residents would be more likely to comply with zoning requirements. Commissioner DeLuca stated that the Zone II is definable geographic area and that a map of it would be included with any bylaws that regulated such area.

The Commissioners discussed possible changes to the Wetlands Bylaw that they would like to consider including the possibility of adding the Zone II of the Dry Brook Well as a jurisdictional area under the Wetlands Bylaw, and/or the "Water Supply Protection District", and/or Bachelor

Brook watershed. The definitions section of the bylaw would need to be added to include Zone II, reservoirs, aquifers, drinking water supplies, and any other relevant new language related to the jurisdictional area.

The Conservation Administrator stated that for this new jurisdictional area, the Commission would need to clearly identify what types of activities are and are not allowed, performance standards relative to them, and what the permitting process would look like, i.e. Notice of Intent or Request for Determination, etc.

Discuss and Consider Amendments to South Hadley Water Supply Protection District Bylaw 255-35 to improve water supply protection

The Conservation Administrator shared the draft of proposed edits submitted by Commissioner Tolopko for consideration. Due to the limited amount of time remaining before the regularly scheduled Conservation Commission meeting at 6pm, the Commissioners agreed to schedule another meeting to resume discussion about potential amendment of the bylaw prior to the Planning Board's meeting on March 25, 2019.

Due to limited time available, the Commissioners agreed to resume this conversation via a posted public meeting on Monday, March 18, 2018 at 4:30pm.

Adjournment

Chair DeLuca adjourned the meeting at 5:55pm so that members could move to the Selectboard Meeting Room for the regularly scheduled Conservation Commission meeting at 6:00pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Anne Capra, Conservation Administrator/Planner

Appendix

Document	Document Location
Chapter 240 Wetlands Bylaw	Ecode; Town website
Chapter 255-35 Water Supply Protection District – N. Tolopko Edits	Con. Comm. Files