

**SOUTH HADLEY CONSERVATION COMMISSION  
VIRTUAL MEETING MINUTES  
MAY 4, 2022**

**Present:** Neva Tolopko, Chair; Bill DeLuca, Vice-Chair; Tom Dennis, Member; Kathleen Davis, Member; April Doroski, Member; Jessica Schoendorf, Member; Louise Croll, Associate Member; Rebekah Cornell, Conservation Administrator; and Colleen Canning, Planning/Conservation Coordinator

Chair Tolopko called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM and reviewed the virtual meeting protocols.

**Agenda Item #1 --- Open Public Forum**

No members of the public spoke during the open forum.

**Agenda Item #2 --- Public Meeting to consider Request for Determination filed by Bernie & Michelle Gelinias for removal of 6 trees within buffer zone of a resource area at 520 Newton St (Map 28, Parcel 165)**

The applicants, Bernie and Michelle Gelinias, were present at the meeting.

Administrator Cornell explained that the applicant was seeking to remove a number of trees within their backyard as they were concerned that property damage would occur.

Commissioners who attended the site visit were supportive of the request due to the location of the trees and the wetness of the site's soils.

The applicant stated that conditions of their backyard had changed over time as soils had become wetter leading to impairment of existing trees within their yard. They had planted a number of trees recently and hoped that the Commission would consider the plantings as part of their mitigation requirements. The Commission was inclined to accept the 6 recently planted trees as part of the mitigation requirements. As the applicant requested to remove 6 trees and had planted 6 trees, 6 additional trees would be required to be planted to satisfy the mitigation ratio of 2:1. The applicant was advised that mitigation plantings should be well suited to wet soils.

**Motion:** Vice-Chair DeLuca moved to issue a Negative Determination #3 for removal of trees at 520 Newton Street with special conditions to include the requirement for 6 additional mitigation plantings with Conservation Administrator approval of plant selection. Commissioner Doroski seconded the motion. Six (6) out of six (6) commissioners present voted in favor of the motion through roll call vote.

**Agenda Item #3 --- Public Meeting to consider a Request for Determination filed by The Boathouse Restaurant to allow a mobile bar trailer at an existing outdoor tent site within Riverfront Area at 1 Alvord St (Map 53, Parcel 2 & Map 44, Parcel 1)**

The applicant's representative, Laura Fernandes, was present at the meeting. She explained that The Boathouse Restaurant currently had an exterior pad on which a tent could be erected during summer months to allow guests to eat and drink outside. At this time, the restaurant was proposing a seasonal mobile bar to serve customers outside. The site was within Riverfront Area which is what triggered the need for Commission review. A site visit had been conducted with several Commission members. The applicant explained that the mobile bar would be open during

the summer months and no generator would be needed as electricity was accessible at the location.

**Motion:** Commissioner Davis moved to issue a Negative Determination #2 for installation of a mobile trailer bar within Riverfront Area at The Boathouse Restaurant located at 1 Alvord Street with special conditions. Vice-Chair DeLuca seconded the motion. Six (6) out of six (6) commissioners present voted in favor of the motion through roll call.

**Agenda Item #4 --- Public Meeting to consider a Request for Determination filed by Ronald Sicotte for removal of 13 dying trees within buffer zone of a resource area at 572 Newton St (Map 28, Parcel 34)**

The applicant, Ronald Sicotte, was present at the meeting. He was requesting to remove a number of impaired trees within close proximity to structures on his property. A site visit was performed with members of the Commission. Many of the trees proposed for removal were along the bank of an intermittent stream. Therefore, it was the applicant's intention to replant trees within proximity to the same location, to maintain the integrity of the bank. The Commission was inclined to approve the request with the requirement for mitigation plantings at a 2:1 ratio and requiring the tree stumps to remain.

**Motion:** Commissioner Doroksi moved to issue a Negative Determination #3 for tree removal at 572 Newton Street with special conditions. Commissioner Davis seconded the motion. Six (6) out of six (6) commissioners present voted in favor of the motion through roll call.

**Agenda Item #5 --- Public Hearing to consider a Notice of Intent filed by Val Shvetz to secure an Order of Conditions permitting the applicant to install an elevated walkway extending to a floating dock on a cove of the CT River at 80 River Road (Parcel 22 Map 5)**

Administrator Cornell explained that the applicant had requested a continuation of the hearing to the Commission's next meeting date. Comments were received from the *Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program* who indicated that the applicant would need to hire a botanist to do a survey of the site. As this would take a number of months, the commission could not take final action on the application until after the survey was complete. However, the applicant would provide updated specifications and design of the proposed dock and associated walkway at the next hearing date.

**Motion:** Vice-Chair DeLuca moved to continue the hearing to May 18, 2022 at 6:30 PM. Commissioner Dennis seconded the motion. Six (6) out of six (6) commissioners present voted in favor of the motion through roll call.

**Agenda Item #6 ---Minutes**

Draft minutes of the March 16, April 6 and April 26 meeting were sent to the Commission for review.

**Motion:** Vice-Chair Deluca moved to approve the meeting minutes of March 16, 2022. Commissioner Schoendorf seconded the motion. Six (6) out of six (6) commissioners present voted in favor of the motion through roll call.

**Motion:** Commissioner Davis moved to approve the draft meeting minutes of April 6, 2022.

Commissioner Dorofski seconded the motion. Five (5) out of six (6) commissioners present voted in favor of the motion through roll call. Vice-Chair Deluca abstained from the vote as he was not present at the meeting.

Commissioners noted some spelling errors and recommended different word choices within the April 26, 2022 draft meeting minutes

**Motion:** Commissioner Davis moved to approve the April 26, 2022 meeting minutes as revised. Commissioner Schoendorf seconded the motion. Five (5) out of six (6) commissioners present voted in favor of the motion through roll call. Vice-Chair DeLuca abstained from the vote as he was not present at the meeting.

### **Agenda Item #7 --- Social Justice Statement**

At the previous meeting, the Commission discussed a revised draft of the social justice statement. Revisions as discussed were incorporated into a revised draft and provided to the Commission for additional review. Minor edits were incorporated including addition of ‘national origin’ to identities of people expressly welcomed to Conservation Areas.

Upon discussion, the Commission decided to remove ‘land management’ from the list of activities within the statement as it read like a policy rather than a mission statement.

**Motion:** Commissioner Dennis moved to approve the Social Justice Statement with edits as discussed. Commissioner Davis seconded the motion. Six (6) out of six (6) commissioners voted in favor of the motion through roll call.

### **Agenda Item #8 --- Administrator’s Report**

Administrator Cornell detailed the following items:

- *Next meeting dates* – The Commission’s next meeting date would be May 18, 2022.
- *Volunteer Conservation Corps* – A Volunteer event would be held within the upcoming weeks to help manage Water Chestnut along the Connecticut River.
- *Upcoming projects* – The Commission could anticipate considering a Notice of Intent for Single-family home construction at a future meeting.

### **Agenda Item #9 --- Other New Business**

There was no new business to discuss.

### **Adjournment**

Chair Tolopko adjourned the meeting at 7:23 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

**As Approved**

Colleen Canning, Planning/Conservation Coordinator

<b>Document</b>	<b>Document Location</b>
RDA- 520 Newton Street	Conservation Files

RDA – The Boathouse, 1 Alvord Street	Conservation Files
RDA – 572 Newton Street	Conservation Files
Draft Social Justice Statement	Conservation Files