

**SOUTH HADLEY CONSERVATION COMMISSION
VIRTUAL MEETING MINUTES
June 30, 2021**

<https://vimeo.com/channels/shctv15/569985066>

Present: Neva Tolopko, Vice-Chair; Jim Canning, Member; Bill Bacis, Member; Garth Schwellenbach, Member; Tom Dennis, Member; Mary Grover, Associate Member; Anne Capra, Conservation Administrator/Planner; and Colleen Canning, Senior Clerk Planning and Conservation Department

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

Agenda Item #1 --- Open Public Form

No members of the public indicated their interest to speak during the open public form.

Agenda Item #2 --- Public Hearing Continuation for an Abbreviated Notice of Resource Area Delineation (ANRAD) filed by South Hadley Electric Light Department (SHELD) for 545 Granby Road/Route 202

Since the previous hearing date, a site visit was held with the applicant's consultant, department staff, and the commission's peer-reviewer. Due to dense vegetation and complex site conditions, the entire site was not able to be seen during that visit. However, based on the discussion while on site, the applicant's consultant would re-delineate the area as the wetland areas appeared to be larger than previously observed. Following the re-delineation, the peer-reviewer would walk the full site with the applicant's consultant to affirm the new delineation. The hearing needed to be continued as the peer-review was still ongoing.

Motion: Commissioner Bacis moved to continue the public hearing to July 14, 2021 at 6:00 PM. Commissioner Schwellenbach seconded the motion. Five (5) out of five (5) commissioners present voted in favor of the motion through roll call.

Agenda Item #3 --- Public Meeting for a Request for Determination of Applicability (RDA) filed by Loomis Communities, Inc. for repair of a bridge at 16-18 Worthington Drive

Robert Bucknell, Loomis Communities Facilities Director, was present at the virtual meeting. He explained that the concrete associated with a bridge at the Loomis Village campus was disintegrating and in disrepair. He was seeking to repair the compromised area and remove and replace the existing handrails at the location. He explained that the stormdrain the location discharged to the opposite side of the road – away from the pond. The stormdrain would be covered when repair commenced which would largely be performed by hand to ensure debris did not end up in the pond.

Motion: Commissioner Bacis moved to issue a Negative Determination # 2 for bridge repair at 16-18 Worthington Road. Commissioner Dennis seconded the motion. Five (5) out of five (5) commissioners present voted in favor of the motion through roll call.

Agenda Item #4 --- Ratify Emergency Order issued to South Hadley Department of Public Works on Morgan Street for repair of a sink hole in roadway

An existing drainage pipe beneath Morgan Street had partially rotted away which created a sink hole at the road's surface. Due to this, Sharon Hart, Director of Public Health and Emergency Management Director, declared an emergency to allow the Department of Public Works to remedy the situation. The Conservation Administrator issued an Emergency Order which the Commission needed to ratify.

Motion: Commissioner Dennis moved to ratify the Emergency Order to allow for the repair of a sink hole on Morgan Street. Commissioner Bacis seconded the motion. Five (5) out of five (5) commissioners present voted in favor of the motion through roll call.

Agenda Item #5 --- Request for Certificate of Compliance #288-0173 filed by Michael Bean for a lapsed Order of Conditions at 11 San Souci Drive

and

Agenda Item #6 --- Request for Certificate of Compliance #288-0195 filed by Michael Bean for a lapsed Order of Conditions at 11 San Souci Drive

Jeromie Whalen, interested buyer of 11 San Souci, was present at the virtual meeting.

During the sale and associated title search of 11 San Souci, two Order of Conditions (288-0173 and 288-0195) which had never been issued Certificates of Compliance were uncovered. Both Orders were for single family home construction and neither Order was acted upon by the applicant. The property location was currently undeveloped. Both of these Orders were considered to be 'invalid' as the work under the Order never commenced. Additionally, two separate Orders could not be issued and active for the same work. To clear the title of the property, the Commission needed to issue Certificates of Compliance for each Order.

Jeromie Whalen stated that a delineation was recently performed on the site and encouraged the commission to closely review it in the event that anyone had future development interest. The Conservation Administrator noted that information was for the Commission's general interest and had no bearing on the Commission's ability to act on issuance of Certificates of Compliance.

Motion: Commissioner Bacis moved to issue a Certificate of Compliance to DEP File #288-0195 for 'invalid Order of Conditions' as the work under the order had lapsed and the work had not been performed Commissioner Canning seconded the motion. Five (5) out of five (5) Commissioners voted in favor of the motion through roll call.

Motion: Commissioner Bacis moved to issue a Certificate of Compliance to DEP File #288-0173 for 'invalid Order of Conditions' as the order had lapsed and the work had not been

performed. Commissioner Canning seconded the motion. Five (5) out of five (5) commissioners voted in favor of the motion through roll call.

Agenda Item #7 --- Administrative Review for Mount Holyoke College General Maintenance Order of Conditions #288-0396 for Stony Brook Culvert Maintenance and Repair

Chris Domina, Mount Holyoke College Assistant Director of Landscaping and Cleaning Services, was present at the virtual meeting along with Sara Lawler, PLACE Alliance Ecological Designer.

The college was seeking to repair three compromised culverts along Stony Brook under their ongoing Order for general maintenance activities. All three culverts were eroded and one had a broken culvert pipe. The segment of the broken culvert pipe would be replaced and fastened to the remaining pipe. No excavation at the bank would be required. The work locations would be accessed via existing paved areas. A backhoe would be used to bring stones to the project location but each stone would be fitted in the bank by hand. PLACE Alliance was working with the College to perform campus-wide upgrades. These proposed repairs would offer intermediate help to the integrity of the compromised culverts. Long term solutions would be considered during the aforementioned campus-wide upgrade plans.

Motion: Commissioner Schwellenbach moved to issue administrative approval for culvert repair and maintenance at the Mount Holyoke College Campus under Order of Conditions number #288-0396. Commissioner Bacis seconded the motion. Five (5) out of five (5) commissioners voted in favor of the motion.

Agenda Item #8 --- Public Hearing for Notice of Intent #288-0471 filed by Mass Department of Transportation (MassDOT), Highway Division for roadway improvements on Newton Street (Route 116) from the intersection of Route 202 to the intersection of Newton Street with Kendrick Street

Robert Nataro of MassDOT was present at the virtual hearing along with consultants Keith Lincoln and John Salisbury of Chappell Engineering.

Keith Lincoln described the proposed roadway improvements on Newton Street extending from the intersection of Kendrick Street to the 202 cloverleaf. The project was before the Commission due to the proposed work to replace the dam structures at Newton Pond, located at the Black Stevens Conservation Area, and the Queensville Dam, located at Titus Pond Conservation Area. Along the work route, resource areas associated with Buttery Brook, Newton Smith Brook, and two unnamed intermittent streams were identified.

The Conservation Administrator stated that two of the dam structures intended to be upgraded were owned by the Town. Therefore, it would be important for the applicant to provide an operations and maintenance plan for each as the Town would be responsible for maintenance. Additionally, the Department of Public Works had yet reviewed the application so she recommended that the hearing be continued to allow time for DPW review and comment.

Robert Natario explained the project was filed as a ‘limited project’ as was typical for work within the roadway. The type of work made achieving performance standards difficult. He added that the existing width of the road would not expand.

As portions of the project were on Town-owned land and structures, a determination needed to be made if/who should sign the Notice on the Town’s behalf.

Motion: Commissioner Bacis moved to continue the public hearing to July 14, 2021 at 6:30 PM. Commissioner Schwellenbach seconded the motion. Five (5) out of five (5) commissioners present voted in favor of the motion through roll call.

Agenda Item #9 --- Public Meeting for a Request for Determination of Applicability (RDA) filed by South Hadley Fire District #2 for demolition of an obsolete water supply pump station at 490 Amherst Road

Mark Aiken, Fire District 2 Water Department Superintendent, was present at the virtual meeting along with Dan Luis, Board of Water Commissioners member.

An obsolete water supply pump house located within the Riverfront of Elmer Brook was proposed to be removed. The site had not been in use for decades and now posed a risk to trespassers. The applicant was proposing to remove the structure and allow the site to re-vegetate.

Motion: Commissioner Bacis moved to issue a Negative Determination #2 for the demolition of an obsolete water supply pump station located at 490 Amherst Road. Commissioner Schwellenbach seconded the motion. Five (5) out of five (5) commissioners present voted in favor of the motion through roll call.

Agenda Item #10 --- Approval of June 2, 2021 Meeting Minutes

Draft minutes of the June 2, 2021 meeting were sent to the Commission for review.

Motion: Commissioner Schwellenbach moved to approve the draft meeting minutes of June 2, 2021. Commissioner Bacis seconded the motion. Five (5) out of five (5) commissioners present voted in favor of the motion through roll call.

Agenda Item #11 --- Administrator’s Report

- *56 San Souci Drive*- Enforcement action had been taken against the homeowner for removal and fill in wetland. The Enforcement order required the owner to prepare a delineation and restoration plan for the site. The Conservation Administrator recommended that the item be considered on an upcoming agenda.
- *Virtual Meetings*- The Governor recently signed an act allowing virtual meetings to continue until April 2022 as the Covid-19 state-of-emergency had ended which initially allowed meetings to be held virtually.

- *Meeting Schedule*- The Commission was scheduled to next meet on July 14 and August 4. The Conservation Administrator proposed meeting the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month starting in September 2021. The Commission would discuss the idea at the next meeting.

Agenda Item #12 --- Other New Business

- *315 Amherst Road* – The sale and acquisition of property had been finalized. Therefore, the Conservation Commission were officially the owners of new property. The property’s name had not been selected and would require approval from the Selectboard.
- *Conservation Commission membership changes* - Two commissioners, Steph Clymer and Jim Canning, did not seek re-appointment to the commission so their terms would end on June 30, 2021. The Commission thanked them both for their years of service.
- *Lauzier Farm* – Donations to help fund the Town’s required match to secure the Agricultural Preservation Restriction for the farm were being received. About \$19K had been received to date.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 7:53 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Colleen Canning, Senior Clerk Planning and Conservation

Appendix

| Document | Document Location |
|-----------------|--------------------------|
| Q&A report | Attached |

June 30, 2021 Conservation Commission Meeting Question & Answer Transcript

| # | Question | Asker Name | Asker Email | Answer(s) |
|---|---|--------------|---------------------------|---|
| 1 | Hello, This is Sara from PLACe Alliance. Is this Q and A used as chat? | Sara Lawler | slawler@placealliance.com | Yes, we use 'Q&A' as the chat because all the comments get sent publicly |
| 2 | Ok! I just wanted to introduce myself. Thanks for having me. | Sara Lawler | slawler@placealliance.com | live answered |
| 3 | I'm also expecting Chris Domina from MHC to be attending, and he might be on a phone, so I'm not sure if his name will come up. | Sara Lawler | slawler@placealliance.com | Thanks, Sara. I'll move you over when we get to your item on the agenda |
| 4 | Great. Thank you. | Sara Lawler | slawler@placealliance.com | live answered |
| 5 | Hello- this is Chris Domina and I have joined the meeting but am unable to see my video. | Chris Domina | cdomina@mtholyoke.edu | Hi Chris. You are in 'attendee' mode so you are no visible on screen. I'll change your privilage when MHC's item comes up |
| 6 | Okay, thank you. | Chris Domina | cdomina@mtholyoke.edu | live answered |
| 7 | That area is excellent habitat for birds and other wildlife. Do you know what is planned by SHELD. It would be a shame to lose that area to development. Aldo Villani, Saybrook Circle. | Aldo Villani | alvelusa3@gmail.com | live answered |