

**SOUTH HADLEY CONSERVATION COMMISSION
VIRTUAL MEETING MINUTES
JULY 15, 2020**

<https://vimeo.com/438929500>

As Approved

Present: Bill DeLuca, Chair; Jim Canning, Vice-Chair; Neva Tolopko, Member; Steph Clymer, Member; Garth Schwellenbach, Member; Tom Dennis, member; Anne Capra, Conservation Administrator/Planner; Colleen Canning, Senior Clerk Planning and Conservation

Chair DeLuca called the virtual meeting to order at 6:00PM and reviewed the protocols for virtual meetings. Six (6) out of six (7) Commissioners were present at the virtual meeting.

Agenda Item #1 --- Public Hearing Continuance for Notice of Intent filed by The Loomis Communities Inc. for the operation and maintenance plan for a small pond to control nuisance aquatic vegetation and algae at 40 Worthington Drive (Map 21, Lot 1)
&

Agenda Item #2 --- Public Hearing Continuance for Notice of Intent filed by The Loomis Communities Inc. for the removal of 99 cubic yards of sediment from a small pond at 40 Worthington Drive (Map 21, Lot 1)

Agenda items #1 and #2 were considered in tandem as the two items were related.

Chair DeLuca called both public hearing continuances to order at 6:03 PM.

Robert Bucknell, Loomis Communities, was present at the virtual hearing along with the project consultant, Naomi Valentine of SWCA.

Naomi Valentine updated the Commission on the status of the Notice of Intent filings. The required MEPA comment period relative to the proposed dredge (288-0466) had lapsed. Loomis Village's condo association was supportive of planting the dewatering area with pollinator plants as recommended by the Commission at the previous hearing. Naomi Valentine researched alternatives to glyphosate for invasive species control as was requested by the Commission. Alternatives could be used for all but one species – reed canary grass.

Chair DeLuca asked how large of an issue the invasive plants were. Naomi Valentine responded that purple loosestrife and oriental bittersweet were the main concerns on site.

Commissioner Schwellenbach inquired how frequent the glyphosate treatments would be. Naomi Valentine expected two or three treatments would be needed.

Vice-Chair Canning strongly opposed the use of glyphosate. Chair DeLuca noted that the applicant researched alternatives and was agreeable to implementing them where applicable. At this time, there was no legislation that allowed the commission to ban its use on private property.

Chair DeLuca closed both public hearings at 6:41 PM.

Motion: Commissioner Schwellenbach moved to issue Order of Conditions to DEP file # 288-0466 for the removal of 99 cubic yards of sediment from a small pond at 40 Worthington Drive

with Special Conditions. Commissioner Tolopko seconded the motion. Six (6) out of six (6) Commissioners present voted in favor of the motion by roll call.

Motion: Commissioner Schwellenbach moved to issue Order of Conditions to DEP file #288-0465 for the operation and maintenance plan for a small pond at 40 Worthington Drive with Special Conditions. Commissioner Dennis seconded the motion. Six (6) out of six (6) Commissioners present voted in favor of the motion by roll call.

Agenda Item #3 --- Discuss and Consider Request for Certificate of Compliance for DEP File # 288-189 filed by Michael and Andrea Gauger for 14 San Souci Drive (Map 43, Parcel 110)

The Conservation Administrator explained that a Request for Certificate of Compliance had been filed by the owners of 14 San Souci Drive in anticipation of sale of the property. Prior to action from the Commission, the lot was sold. A site visit had not yet occurred. Therefore, the Conservation Administrator was not able to determine if a Certificate of Compliance was recommended. She would reach out to the new property owners to request a site visit.

Commissioner Clymer left the virtual meeting at 6:47 PM

Commissioner Clymer re-joined the meeting at 6:50 PM.

Agenda Item #4 --- Administrator's Report

Request for Certificate of Compliance 288-0150

The Conservation Administrator explained that a Request for Partial Certificate of Compliance had been received to close out an old order attached to 11 Blueberry Lane. In review of the file, it was discovered that the Order of Conditions was issued to the DPW for sewer upgrades utilizing a number of easements on private property; one of which was 11 Blueberry Lane. A number of Partial Certificates of Compliance had been issued to affected properties. However, there were still a number of properties carrying the Order of Conditions. As the order was issued to the DPW, the Conservation Administrator recommended that Partial Certificates of Compliance be issued to all outstanding private lots.

Motion: Vice-Chair Canning moved to issue Partial Certificates of Compliance for DEP file #288-0150 for the following lots: 104 Mosier Street, 110 Mosier Street, 114 Mosier Street, 116 Mosier Street, 120 Mosier Street, 124 Mosier Street, 128 Mosier Street, 145 Mosier Street, 4 E Parkview Street, 9 E Parkview Street, 11 Blueberry Bend, 42 Stanton Street, and the lot located at Assessor's Map 38, Parcel 52. Commissioner Tolopko seconded the motion. Six (6) out of six (6) Commissioners present voted in favor of the motion by roll call.

Grant Applications

The Conservation Administrator explained that she had submitted the LAND Grant application to help acquire the Chapter 61A property at 315 Amherst Road. She was working on a 'back up' grant application through MassWildlife in the event the LAND grant was not awarded.

Upcoming Meeting Dates

The upcoming Conservation Commission Meeting dates were as follows:

August 5
August 26
September 16
October 7
October 28
November 18

The Conservation Administrator noted that the August 5 meeting may not be necessary as there would not be many items to address. A determination could be made closer to the next meeting date.

Minutes

Draft minutes of the June 10 and June 24 meeting were previously transmitted to the Commission for review.

Motion: Vice-Chair Canning moved to approve the draft minutes from the June 10 and June 24, 2020 meeting. Commissioner Tolopko seconded the motion. Five (5) out of six (6) Commissioners voted in favor of the motion through roll call. Commissioner Clymer abstained from the vote.

Agenda Item #5 --- Other New Business

There was no new business to discuss.

Adjournment

Chair DeLuca adjourned the meeting at 7:03 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
As Approved
Colleen Canning, Senior Clerk, Planning and Conservation Department

Appendix

Document	Document Location
Loomis Village Pond NOI #288-465 - Operation and Maintenance Plan	Conservation Files
Loomis Village Pond NOI #288-466 - Pond Dredge	Conservation Files