

**SOUTH HADLEY CONSERVATION COMMISSION
VIRTUAL MEETING MINUTES
JULY 20, 2022**

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

Chair Tolopko called the meeting to order at 6:03 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 ----Minutes

No minutes were prepared for the Commission's review.

Agenda Item #3 --- Public Meeting to consider a Request for Determination filed by Lydon Tree for the removal of trees within buffer zone and replacement plantings at 15 Waite Ave (Parcel 24, Map 67)

Administrator Cornell explained that a number of trees were removed without approval from the Commission within the buffer zone at 15 Waite Ave. There appeared to be a miscommunication between the homeowner and contractor regarding who would file the appropriate application with the Commission. Nevertheless, the removal had been done and the Commission needed to consider an appropriate Determination and associated mitigation for the removal. The homeowner had offered to plant 18 shrubs and two trees as mitigation. At least 6 trees had been removed within the Commission's jurisdiction.

Motion: Commissioner Davis moved to issue a Negative Determination of Applicability #3 for removal of trees within buffer zone at 15 Waite Ave with the requirement for mitigation plantings. Commissioner Doroski seconded the motion. Six (6) out of (6) six commissioners present voted in favor of the motion through roll call.

Agenda Item #4 --- Master Plan Implementation

Susan Perry, Master Plan Implementation Committee (MPIC), was present at the meeting and shared that the Town recently updated their Master Plan. She also encouraged the Commission to share how MPIC could better work with the Commission. Commissioners shared that routine visits from MPIC were helpful in keeping the Master Plan an ongoing focus. A Town-wide workshop was anticipated to be held in November to allow discussion of the Master Plan across all relevant Town entities.

The Commission reviewed a matrix which identified Master Plan actions assigned to the Commission.

Agenda Item #5 --- Enforcement Order 513 Newton Street

Administrator Cornell explained that a call was received from an abutter of 513 Newton Street notifying her of clearing on the property. As the property owner was unresponsive to correspondence, the Commission could issue an Enforcement Order to compel the owner to engage with the Commission and retroactively permit the clearing.

Motion: Vice-Chair DeLuca moved to issue an Enforcement Order to David Johnson at 513 Newton Street for vegetation removal within the buffer zone without appropriate approval from the Conservation Commission. Commissioner Schwellenbach seconded the motion. Six (6) out of six (6) Commissioners present voted in favor of the motion through roll call.

Agenda Item #6 --- Administrator's Report

Administrator Cornell detailed the following items:

- *Tree Replacement Policy* – Town Counsel reviewed the draft policy and offered comments for the Commission to consider. The main feedback involved the language of the Wetlands Bylaw as the bylaw did not offer the Commission the ability to issue fines. For the Commission to adopt the Tree Replacement Policy as intended, changes to the Wetlands Bylaw would need to be adopted through Town Meeting action. The Commission discussed adopting the replacement policy now, with limited availability to issue fines, or wait until the bylaw was amended to allow for issuance of fines. The Commission was inclined to adopt the policy now which could be amended after adoption of an amended bylaw.
- *Remote Meetings* – Provisions to allow for remote meetings due to the COVID-19 pandemic had been extended.
- *311 River Road* – The Conservation Administrator visited the site and confirmed that requirements of a recently issued Enforcement Order had been complied with.
- *11 San Souci* -- The applicant of a recently denied Order of Conditions for construction of a single-family home had appealed the Commission's decision to DEP.
- *Alvord Street* – The Commission could anticipate considering an RDA for pool installation associated with a single-family home at a future meeting.
- *80 River Road* – A public hearing to consider dock installation at the property had been continued to the Commission's September 7 meeting.

Agenda Item #7 --- Other New Business

Commissioner Doroski recommended that Commissioners attended training opportunities offered by the Massachusetts Association of Conservation Commissions (MACC). If any Commissioners were interested in signing up for trainings, they could contact department staff.

Adjournment

Motion: Vice-Chair DeLuca moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Davis seconded the motion. Six (6) out of six (6) commissioners voted in favor of the motion through roll call.

The meeting adjourned at 7:16 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Colleen Canning,
Planning/Conservation Coordinator

Appendix

Document	Document Location
RDA – 15 Waite Ave	Conservation Files
Master Plan Action Matrix	Conservation Files