

**SOUTH HADLEY CONSERVATION COMMISSION  
VIRTUAL MEETING MINUTES  
AUGUST 2, 2023**

**Present:** Neva Tolopko, Chair; April Doroski, Vice-Chair; Garth Schwellenbach, Member, Kathleen Davis, Member; Tom Dennis, Member; Louise Croll, Associate Member; Terry Rosenfeld, 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 --- Minutes**

Draft minutes of the July 19, 2023 meeting were sent to the Commission for review.

**Motion:** Commissioner Davis moved to approve the July 19, 2023 meeting minutes. Commissioner Schwellenbach seconded the motion. Four (4) out of Five (5) commissioners present voted in favor of the motion through roll call vote. Commissioner Dennis abstained from the vote.

**Agenda Item #3 --- 6:00 PM Public Hearing to consider a request for an Order of Conditions filed by Robin Abbey for the expansion of the existing single-family home, patio and backyard landscaping as well as restoration of unpermitted Buffer Zone impacts that previously occurred under a filed RDA for this project. Located at 21 North Sycamore Lane (Parcel 53 Map 39)**

Administrator Cornell explained that a site visit was held on Friday with members of the Commission and the applicant's representatives. Following the site visit, it was determined that the proposed plan would need to be modified to minimize impacts to the inner 50 foot Buffer Zone. As new plans needed to be drafted, the applicant had requested an automatic continuation to the Commission's next meeting.

**Motion:** Commissioner Schwellenbach moved to continue the public meeting to August 16, 2023 at 6:00 PM. Commissioner Davis seconded the motion. Five (5) out of five (5) members voted in favor of the motion through roll call vote.

**Agenda Item #4 --- Request for Certificate of Compliance for 35 Hillcrest Park Unit #15**

The sale of a condominium unit at Hillcrest Park had been stalled as the new owner's lender uncovered an old Order of Conditions tied to the condominium complex, DEP file #288-0056. As such, a certificate of compliance was being sought to allow the sale to move forward.

**Motion:** Commissioner Schwellenbach moved to issue a certificate of compliance to 35 Hillcrest Park Unit #15 to release the unit from DEP file #288-0056. Commissioner Davis seconded the motion. Five (5) out of five (5) Commissioners present voted in favor of the motion through roll call vote.

**Agenda Item #5 --- Ratify Emergency Certification for Brunelle’s Marina (1 Alvord St)**

Following recent storm and flooding events, the docks at Brunelle’s Marina had been damaged and woody debris from the river had washed ashore. Administrator Cornell issued an Emergency Order to allow the necessary repairs to commence. The Commission was being asked to ratify the Order.

Associate Member Croll asked if the replacement docks were made using Styrofoam. Administrator Cornell replied that the replacement docking material was not Styrofoam.

**Motion:** Commissioner Dennis moved to ratify the Enforcement Order issued to Brunelle’s Marina, 1 Alvord Street, for cleanup and repair of damages caused by a recent storm. Vice-Chair Doroski seconded the motion. Five (5) out of five (5) commissioners present voted in favor of the motion through roll call.

**Agenda Item #6 --- Administrator’s Report**

Administrator Cornell detailed the following items:

- *Growing Wild South Hadley* – The subcommittee had discussed participating in the ‘adopt an island’ program. There was support for adopting a location on Bridge Street in South Hadley Falls. Conversations would be ongoing.
- *Diversity Equity and Inclusion* – The subcommittee met prior in the evening. Events, both in-person and virtual, would be held in coordination with the Hampshire Bird Club in September.
- *Boy Scout and Girl Scout Projects* – A trail network within Black Stevens Conservation Area had been re-blazed by a girl scout. Additionally, cleanup of Canal Park had been performed by a boy scout.
- *Future Meeting* – Meetings were scheduled for August 18, September 6 and 20; and October 4 and 18.

**Agenda Item #7 --- Other New Business**

Members of the Growing Wild Subcommittee scheduled their next meeting on Wednesday, August 10 at 6:00 PM. Administrator Cornell added that a guest speaker was scheduled at the South Hadley Public Library the evening of September 14.

**Adjournment**

**Motion:** Vice-Chair Doroski moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Dennis seconded the motion. Five (5) out of five (5) members voted in favor of the motion through roll call.

The meeting adjourned at 6:26 PM

Respectfully Submitted,  
Colleen Canning, Planning/Conservation Coordinator

**Appendix**

<b>Document</b>	<b>Document Location</b>
RDA – 21 North Sycamore Knolls	Conservation Files
RCOC – 288-0056	Conservation Files
EO – 1 Alvord Street, Brunelle’s Marina	Conservation Files