

**SOUTH HADLEY CONSERVATION COMMISSION
VIRTUAL MEETING MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 21, 2022**

Present: Neva Tolopko, Chair; Gath Schwellenbach, Member; Tom Dennis, Member; Kathy Davis, Member; Rebekah Cornell, Conservation Administrator; and Colleen Canning, Planning/Conservation Coordinator

Chair Tolopko called the meeting to order at 6:02 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 Hearing to consider an Order of Conditions submitted under the Limited Project provisions of 310 CMR 10.53(3)(i). The project includes maintenance and repair of a dam and appurtenant works at Lithia Springs Reservoir Dam (Map 62 Parcel 13) accessible through a gravel access road from Lithia Springs Rd.

The applicant's representative, Lauren Gluck and Clarence "Bubber" Hutto of PARE Corporation, were present at the hearing.

The hearing had been continued from the previous meeting to allow the applicant to discuss the project with the Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program (NHESP). Since the previous hearing date, NHESP approved the rear species survey. The comments from NHESP and DEP were reviewed and discussed. As NHESP submitted final comments on the project, the Commission was now able to issue Orders of Condition.

The Commission reviewed special conditioning associated with approval which included the following: 1) the work under the Orders of Condition needed to comply with the NHESP comment letter; 2) signs would need to be posted to identify where pedestrians walking paths were to not impact areas of endangered species; and 3) removal of downed trees was only permitted within 10 feet of the head wall.

Motion: Commissioner Schwellenbach moved to grant a waiver to allow work within the 50' Conservation Zone work under Order of Conditions #288- 0480. Commissioner Davis seconded the motion. Four (4) out of four (4) members present voted in favor of the motion through roll call.

Motion: Commissioner Schwellenbach moved to issue Order of Conditions #288-0480 with special conditions. Commissioner Davis seconded the motion. Four (4) out of four (4) members voted in favor of the motion through roll call.

Agenda Item #4 --- Public Hearing to consider a Notice of Intent filed by Val Shvets 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)

The applicant ,Val Shvets, was present at the meeting along with his consultant, Mike Mocko.

Mike Mocko updated the Commission on the progress of the application filing. A biologist finished a survey of the landscape as was required by the Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program (NHESP). The report was awaiting review and approval from NHESP. Redesign of the walkway and dock would be done following said review. For these reasons, the applicant was requesting a continuation of the scheduled public hearing.

Motion: Commissioner Schwellwnbach moved to continue the public hearing to November 2, 2022 at 6:05 PM. Commissioner Davis seconded the motion. Four (4) out of four (4) commissioners present voted in favor of the motion through roll call.

Agenda Item #5 --- Lauzier APR Discussion

The Commission decided to table the discussion until the next meeting.

Commissioner Dennis left the meeting at 6:40 PM.

Agenda Item #7 --- Other New Business

Susan Perry, Master Plan Implementation Committee, was present at the meeting. She asked the Commission the following questions:

- 1) What challenges did the Commission see with implementing their tasks? One challenge identified was coordinating meetings between boards and commissions with shared responsibilities.
- 2) Would the Commission support the idea of a new handbook for all boards and Commissions? Commissioners supported the idea.
- 3) Were there any specific items the Commission wanted discussed at the town-wide Master Plan meeting in November? Administrator Cornell would further consider the question and would email a response at a later date.

Agenda Item #6 --- Administrator's Report

Administrator Cornell detailed the following items:

- *Volunteer Events*- The Source-to-Sea cleanup would be held on Friday, September 23. This was a region-wide event to clean the Connecticut River every year.

Agenda Item #7 --- Other New Business

There was no additional new business to discuss.

Adjournment

Motion: Commissioner Davis moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Schwellenbach seconded the motion. Three **(3)** out of three **(3)** commissioners present voted in favor of the motion through roll call.

The meeting adjourned at 6:50 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Colleen Canning, Planning/Conservation Coordinator

Appendix

Document	Document Location
NOI application- 288-0480	Conservation Files
NOI application -288-0477	Conservation Files