

**SOUTH HADLEY CONSERVATION COMMISSION
VIRTUAL MEETING MINUTES
OCTOBER 6, 2021**

<https://vimeo.com/625835516>

As Approved

Present: Bill DeLuca, Chair; Neva Tolopko, Vice-Chair; Bill Bacis, Member; Tom Dennis, Member; Mary Grover, Member; Kathleen Davis, Member; Aldo Villani, Associate Member; Anne Capra, Director of Planning and Conservation Department; Rebekah Cornell, Conservation Administrator; and Colleen Canning, Senior Clerk Planning and Conservation Department

Chair DeLuca called the meeting to order at 6:02 PM and reviewed the virtual meeting protocols.

Agenda Item #1 --- Open Public Form

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

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

The applicant's consultant, Matthew Soares of Fuss & O'Neill, was present at the hearing as well as the Town's peer-review consultant, Chris Lucas of Lucas Environmental.

The public hearing sessions to consider the ANRAD had been open for a number of months to allow for peer-review of the delineation and subsequent re-delineation of the site. The applicant's wetland scientist and the Town's peer-review wetland scientist walked the entire site to review and affirm each boundary point. The intention of the ANRAD filing was to affirm the site's wetland delineation and was not related to any particular development interest. However, the delineation would inform the site's development potential.

The revised delineation and an associated memorandum were received. Chris Lucas reviewed the items in the memorandum for the Commission. Within, there was a recommendation for the Commission to include a 'finding of fact' in their decision to identify that additional resources were on site but could not be mapped at the time of the delineation as they were associated with intermittent streams. This clarification would protect the Commission's interests in the event that additional resource areas were identified during any future site work.

At the time of the meeting, field data sheets had not been provided for the revised delineation. This information would be needed prior to the action from the Commission. Mathew Soares indicated that the data sheets would be provided prior to the Commission's next meeting. Therefore, the hearing needed to be continued.

Motion: Vice-Chair Tolopko moved to continue the public hearing to October 20, 2021 at 6:00 PM. Commissioner Davis seconded the motion. Six (6) out of six (6) commissioners voted in favor of the motion through roll call.

Agenda Item #3 --- Request for Certificate of Compliance for Order of Conditions #288-0405 filed by Val Shvetz - Oak Ridge Custom Home Builders, Inc for 80 River Road

A request for Certificate of Compliance was received to release the Order of Conditions 288-0405 for construction of a new single family home within the Riverfront Area in the footprint of a previous residence. The Commission was familiar with the property as recent enforcement action was taken against the property for the construction of an unpermitted dock and associated boardwalk. The Order was previously extended to allow for time to guarantee that the mitigation plantings were successful. A site visit was performed which verified that all mitigation was performed. Additionally, mitigation requirements associated with the Enforcement Order were also completed.

Motion: Commissioner Dennis moved to issue a Certificate of Compliance to DEP File #288-0405 for construction of a single family home at 80 River Road. Commissioner Bacis seconded the motion. Six (6) out of six (6) commissioners voted in favor of the motion through roll call.

Agenda Item #4 --- Request for Certificate of Compliance for Order of Conditions #288-0359 filed by J.N. Duquette & Son Construction, Inc. – for 40 Lyon Green

A request for a partial Certificate of Compliance had been received to release 40 Lyon Green from Order of Conditions 288-0359 which was associated with development of the subdivision. The Order was still open as the subdivision was not finished. However, a number of homes on individual lots had been sold and were now occupied. 40 Lyon Green was once such home with an interested buyer. Upon a deed search, the open OOC was uncovered which the seller wished to lift prior to completing the sale. Ongoing conditions would remain in perpetuity.

Motion: Commissioner Grover moved to issues a partial certificate of compliance to DEP File #288-0359 to release 40 Lyon Green. Vice-Chair Tolopko seconded the motion. Five (5) out of six (6) commissioners voted in favor of the motion through roll call. Commissioner Bacis abstained from the vote as he was a property abutter.

Agenda Item #5 --- 315 Amherst Road Conservation Area Name

As the Commission was aware, 315 Amherst Road was purchased for conservation purposes. The Commission needed to consider property names to formalize the property's acquisition. Ultimately, the Selectboard had the final authority to name Town-owned property. However, the Commission could recommend a name for the Selectboard's endorsement.

Commissioners sent name recommendations to the Conservation Administrator which were compiled in the meeting's background materials. Commissioners considered the ecological features of the property in selecting a name. The Baseline Document Report associated with the property could be used as a reference point. Additionally, the Commission considered the property's relation to Bachelor Brook and considered the concept of a Bachelor Brook 'greenway' which could connect multiple Conservation Areas within the watershed.

The seller of the property, Mary Beth O’Meara, spoke to the Commission. She advocated for the Gagne Family name to be included in the name of the Conservation Area. The property had been owned by the family for over 100 years and many of the Gagne Family descendants still lived in South Hadley.

The opinion of the Commission was not unanimous on the integration of the family name into the property name. Supporters of the concept identified that the Gagne Family had deep roots in the community and their name related to the history of the site. As decades pass and new residents move into Town, the family name and their community impact could be forgotten. Alternatively, other Commissioners identified a general trend away from naming physical features and places after people. The features of the land itself could be used to find a name. When locations are named after people, social and financial privilege impact how history is chosen to be remembered. Additionally, the property at 315 Amherst road was purchased outright and was not a gift from the family.

The conservation would resume at a later meeting. The Conservation Administrator would organize a site walk of the property for the Commission.

Agenda Item #6 --- Approval of September 15, 2021 Meeting Minutes

Draft minutes of the September 15, 2021 meeting were sent to the Commission for review.

Motion: Commissioner Dennis moved to approve the September 15, 2021 meeting minutes. Commissioner Davis seconded the motion. Six (6) out of six (6) commissioners voted in favor of the motion through roll.

Agenda Item #7 --- Administrator’s Report

The Conservation Administrator detailed the upcoming meeting schedule and the following items:

- *Queensville Dam* – The Town was awarded funding to conduct a study to assess the feasibility of removal of the Queensville Dam at Titus Pond. The study was recently initiated.

Agenda Item #8 --- Other New Business

There was no new business to discuss.

Adjournment

Chair DeLuca adjourned the meeting at 7:33 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

As Approved

Colleen Canning, Senior Clerk

Planning and Conservation Department

Appendix

Document	Document Location
Q&A Transcript	Attached
ANRAD 288- 04	Conservation Files
RCOC 288-0405	Conservation Files
PRCOC 288-0359 40 Lyon Green	Conservation Files

October 6, 2021 Conservation Commission Meeting 'Q&A' Transcript

# Question	Asker Name	Asker Email
1 May I offer my input?	Mary Beth O'Meara	marybethomeara@comcast.net
2 I could join you and show you.	Mary Beth O'Meara	marybethomeara@comcast.net