

**SOUTH HADLEY CONSERVATION COMMISSION
VIRTUAL MEETING MINUTES
NOVEMBER 3, 2021**

<https://vimeo.com/642828659>

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

Chair DeLuca called the meeting to order at 6:00 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 --- Request for Certificate of Compliance for Order of Conditions #288-456 filed by the Town of South Hadley for Gaylord Street & Main Street Parking Lot.

The Town had been awarded funding for infrastructure improvements to Gaylord Street and upgrades to the municipal parking lot on Main Street. Order of Conditions were issued to permit the work. The upgrades to the parking lot resulted in a reduction in impervious surface and repair of a failed slope. Staff recently visited the site of the work. No signs of erosion or sediment buildup were identified. Therefore, issuance of a Certificate of Compliance was recommended.

Motion: Commissioner Schwellenbach moved to issue a Certificate of Compliance to Orders of Condition #288-0456 for improvements to Gaylord Street and the Main Street Parking lot. Vice-Chair Tolopko seconded the motion. Six (6) out of six (6) Commissioners voted in favor of the motion.

Agenda Item #3 --- 315 Amherst Road Conservation Area

Over a number of meetings, the Commission had discussed naming the newly acquired property at 315 Amherst Road. After a name was selected, it would be forwarded to the Selectboard for final endorsement. A site visit was held amongst the Commission to collectively observe the location. Long-term management of the site would be considered at a later date. As the management plan was not set, it made sense to allow the ongoing agricultural use of the land to continue.

Commissioners expressed interest in identifying the site as part of the Bachelor Brook greenway. However, including reference to Bachelor Brook in the property's name could be confusing as the Town already had a Conservation Area including Bachelor Brook in its name. The site's relationship to Bachelor Brook, and/or the Bachelor Brook conservation network, could be identified within the description of the site. As the Mount Holyoke Range could be seen from the property at 315 Amherst Road, Commissioners indicated support of the name 'Rangeview Meadow Conservation Area'

Mary-Beth O’Meara, the site’s previous property owner, was present at the meeting and addressed the Commission. She advocated for the Gagne Family name to be included in the name of the site. In response, Chair DeLuca thanked her for her comments and stated that the Commission could consider inclusion of educational information regarding the site’s historical use and ownership on the site’s signage.

Chair DeLuca recommended that the Commission consider kiosk placement and/or signage at a future meeting. Additionally, he recommended that the Selectboard be invited to visit the site.

Motion: Commission Schwellenbach moved to recommend the name ‘Rangeview Meadow Conservation Area’ to the Selectboard for the Conservation Area at 315 Amherst Road. Vice-Chair Tolopko seconded the motion. Six (6) out of six (6) Commissioners voted in favor of the motion through roll call.

Agenda Item #4 --- Approval of October 20, 2021 Meeting Minutes

Draft minutes of the October 20, 2021 meeting were sent to the Commission for review.

Motion: Vice-Chair Tolopko moved to approve the October 20, 2021 meeting minutes. Commissioner Davis seconded the motion. Five (5) out of six (6) Commissioners voted in favor of the motion through roll call. Commissioner Dennis abstained from the vote as he had not reviewed the draft.

Agenda Item #5 --- Administrator’s Report

Administrator Cornell detailed the following items:

- *Upcoming applications* – The Commission could anticipate reviewing applications submitted by the Department of Public Works for general maintenance activities and by the owners of 42 Stanton Ave for work to their residential property.
- *Volunteer events* - Trail maintenance events would be held on November 2 and 6. All were invited to attend.

Agenda Item #6 --- Other New Business

No new business was discussed.

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
No Q&A Report	---