

CITY OF CHICOPEE
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Minutes of Meeting
February 2, 2022

Pursuant to Mass. General Law Ch. 131, Section 40 and the Chicopee Wetland Ordinance Ch. 272, the Chicopee Conservation Commission held a public hearing on **Wednesday, February 2, 2022** at 6:15 PM via Zoom and in the Planning and Conservation Office, City Hall Annex, 4th Floor, 274 Front St., Chicopee, MA 01013

Celeste Donovan opened the meeting at 6:15 PM and announced that the meeting was being recorded.

Conservation Commission attendance:

Member	Present	Absent	Excused
Celeste Donovan	X		
Charles Payne	X		
Meghan Balakier	X		
Richard Valcourt	X		
Brian Nunes	X		
Bianca Thomas	X		

Planning/Conservation Staff attendance:

Member	Present	Absent	Excused
Lee Pouliot, Director			X
James Dawson, Development Manager	X		
Nathan Moreau, Associate Planner			X

Item 1: RDA for the construction of a self-storage and RV storage facility. Work will occur within wetland buffer zone. Location: Shawinigan Dr. (Assessor Map 187, Parcel 1B) Applicant: JLL Real Estate, LLC, 5 Wandering Meadows Lane, Wilbraham, MA 01095

Notes: Keith Terry and Richard Kowalski presented the RDA to the Commission. They explained that all proposed buildings and paved areas were outside the 100' buffer zone. However, approximately 400 SF of grading was proposed within the 100' buffer zone. Mr. Terry explained the disturbed area within the buffer zone would be restored and allowed to return to a naturalized state. The Commission asked how many trees were going to be removed as a result of the disturbance in the buffer zone. It was Mr. Terry's estimate that approximately 4-5 trees would be removed. Staff explained that additional trees would have to be planted to address the site plan submission requirements. Staff also noted many of the trees on the site were invasive Callery Pear trees.

Mr. Terry explained the stormwater basin to the Commission, stating it was designed for a 100 year storm with an emergency overflow discharging into the buffer zone. He was confident that due to the porous nature of the soils in this area that the overflow would rarely discharge water into the buffer zone.

The Commission discussed desired erosion control measures and agreed that straw bales in conjunction with silt fence would be most appropriate within the buffer zone and straw wattles and silt fence could be utilized outside the buffer zone. Staff explained the standard erosion control measures. The Commission include them as conditions of approval.

Staff reviewed its determination recommendation to the Commission who was in agreement.

Motion to issue a Positive 5 and a Negative 3 Determination was made by Meghan Balakier and seconded by Brian Nunes. Vote was 6-0 to issue a Positive 5 and a Negative 3 Determination.

Member	Approve	Deny	Continue	Abstain
Celeste Donovan	X			
Charles Payne	X			
Meghan Balakier	X			
Richard Valcourt	X			
Brian Nunes	X			
Bianca Thomas	X			

Item 2: Minutes from January 19, 2022

Notes: There were no corrections required.

Motion to approve the minutes was made by Charles Payne and seconded by Meghan Balakier. Vote was 5 in favor, 0 opposed and 1 abstention. Brian Nunes abstained as he was not in attendance at the January 19, 2022 meeting.

Member	Approve	Deny	Continue	Abstain
Celeste Donovan	X			
Charles Payne	X			
Meghan Balakier	X			
Richard Valcourt	X			
Brian Nunes				X
Bianca Thomas	X			

Item 3: Sign Bills – Staff stated there were no bills to sign.

Item 4: Upcoming Projects/Discussion

- **Enforcement Order** – Staff observed tree clearing within Buffer Zone and possible isolated wetland resource area at 616 Broadway.

Notes: Staff explained that tree and vegetation cutting was occurring within an isolated wetland resource area and buffer zone at 616 Broadway Street without a filing with the Conservation Commission. Staff noted it had spoken to someone regarding this property within the past couple of years and informed the person that a filing would be required. The Enforcement Order calls for an immediate cease and desist of the vegetation removal and the installation of erosion controls. It also requires the filing of a Notice of Intent with the Commission by April 1, 2022.

- **Bald Eagle Nest Survey** – Staff reviewed the report from the Wildlife Biologist that surveyed the Food Bank property per the Commission’s OOC condition. The report stated that there was no evidence of an eagles nest anywhere on or around the property.
- **RDA - Syrek Street** – Staff informed the Commission that an RDA had been filed for the resurfacing of Syrek Street. The RDA will be on the February 16, 2022 agenda.
- **Sunflower Ave.** – The Commissioners asked Staff if there was any further information on the Sunflower Ave. Enforcement Order. Staff explained it was being addressed by the City Law Department and there was no new information to date.

Item 5: Adjournment – Next scheduled meeting is February 16, 2022.

Motion to adjourn was made by Richard Valcourt and seconded by Charles Payne. Vote was 6-0 to adjourn.

Member	Approve	Deny	Continue	Abstain
Celeste Donovan	X			
Charles Payne	X			
Meghan Balakier	X			
Richard Valcourt	X			
Brian Nunes	X			
Bianca Thomas	X			

Meeting adjourned at 6:50 PM.