

**CITY OF CHICOPEE
CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

**Minutes of Meeting
February 6, 2019**

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 6, 2019** at 6:15 PM, City Council Chambers, 4th Floor, City Hall.

James Reidy opened the meeting at 6:15 PM and announced that the meeting was being recorded and asked if anyone was recording the meeting to please state their name and address for the meeting record.

Conservation Commission attendance:

Member	Present	Absent	Excused
James Reidy, Chair	X		
Jessica Dzwonkoski			X
Celeste Donovan	X*		
Charles Payne	X		
Nicole Dewberry	X		
Sharon Balcom	X		

*Note: Celeste Donovan had to excuse herself from the meeting at 7:45 PM

Planning/Conservation Staff attendance:

Member	Present	Absent	Excused
Lee Pouliot, Director			X
James Dawson, Development Manager	X		
Patrick McKenna, Assistant Planner	X		

Item 1: RDA for the construction of a single-family house on Lot 12 of the proposed Sycamore Lane Subdivision. Work will occur within Buffer Zone to an Isolated Wetland and Vernal Pool. Location: New subdivision off Mayflower Ave. (Assessor Map 121 Parcel 1 & 1A and Map 144, Parcel 18A) Applicant: Grandview Development Associates, LLC, 1421 Granby Rd. Chicopee, MA 01020

Notes: Jon Goddard of R. Levesque Associates explained the new RDA submittal for Lot 12 of Sycamore Lane. Mr. Goddard stated that the new submittal was in response to the Commission’s ruling on the previous submittal for lots 7, 8 and 9 that affected the lots further down the proposed street. Commissioner Reidy reviewed the requests on the application with regard to the determination choices. Staff read the definitions of the determinations off the form. Commissioner Reidy requested an explanation of how intrusion into the Commission’s designated “No Touch” zones would be managed. Mr. Goddard gave an explanation of how this could be handled. The Commission decided that the 100’ “No Touch” zone bordering the Vernal Pool was to be established with a no mow seed mix interspersed with native woody plants. The Commissioners also restated their original conditions, attaching them to this RDA.

Motion to approve the request with a Negative 1, a Negative 4 and a Positive 6 Determination with noted conditions was made by Charles Payne and seconded by Celeste Donovan. Vote was 5-0 to approve the request with a Negative 1, a Negative 4 and a Positive 6 Determination with noted conditions.

Member	Approve	Deny	Continue	Abstain
James Reidy, Chair	X			
Celeste Donovan	X			
Charles Payne	X			
Nicole Dewberry	X			
Sharon Balcom	X			

Item 2: RDA for the construction of a stormwater infiltration basin associated with the proposed Sycamore Lane subdivision. Work will occur within Buffer Zone to a Bordering Vegetated Wetland. Location: New subdivision off Mayflower Ave. (Assessor Map 121 Parcel 1 & 1A and Map 144, Parcel 18A) Applicant: Grandview Development Associates, LLC, 1421 Granby Rd. Chicopee, MA 01020

Notes: Jon Goddard of R. Levesque Associates explained the RDA submittal for the Stormwater drainage lot for Sycamore Lane. Mr. Goddard stated that the reconfiguration of the “stormwater lot” and cul-de-sac was in response to the Commission’s ruling on lots 7, 8 and 9. Commissioner Reidy asked the Commissioners if there were any questions or comments. Staff noted that the stormwater system would become the City’s responsibility once the new street was completed and accepted as a public street. Two abutters from Mayflower Avenue commented on stormwater flow from the Sycamore Lane lots onto Mayflower Avenue lots. The lots in question were outside of Conservation Commission jurisdiction. Commissioner Reidy explained that this issue was not the Commissions jurisdiction and advised the abutters to contact the Planning Board with their concerns. Staff noted that drainage patterns are reviewed by the City Engineer as part of the subdivision review and that Definitive Plans for the subdivision have not been approved to date. The Commission will also amend the Application, per the advisement of MA DEP staff and per the permission of the Applicant, to remove the request of whether or not the “area” is an “area” subject to jurisdiction of the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act.

Motion to approve the request with a Positive 6 and a Negative 3 Determination was made by Celeste Donovan and seconded by Sharon Balcom. Vote was 5-0 to approve the request with a Positive 6 and a Negative 3 Determination.

Member	Approve	Deny	Continue	Abstain
James Reidy, Chair	X			
Celeste Donovan	X			
Charles Payne	X			
Nicole Dewberry	X			
Sharon Balcom	X			

Item 3: Presentation: Mark Stinson from MassDEP will give us a crash course on the State Regulations and forms.

Notes: Mark Stinson provided an oversight into the forms and the regulations. Since the Commissioners did not have their individual regulations packets with them Mr. Stinson indicated it may best not to go into too much detail with the regulations and that he could do this at a later date. Mr. Stinson provided an interactive learning session to the Commission and Staff he terms “Wetland Jeopardy”. The session was a fun way of learning about various topics covered in the State Wetland Regulations.

Item 4: Minutes from January 2, 2019

Notes: Commissioner Balcom noted one typo in the minutes. Staff noted the correction would be made prior to filing the minutes with the City Clerk.

Motion to approve with the noted correction was made by Nicole Dewberry and seconded by Sharon Balcom. Vote was 4-0 to approve.

Member	Approve	Deny	Continue	Abstain
James Reidy, Chair	X			
Celeste Donovan				
Charles Payne	X			
Nicole Dewberry	X			
Sharon Balcom	X			

Item 5: SIGN BILLS!!

Notes: Staff noted there weren’t any bills to sign.

Item 6: Upcoming Project updates/Discussion

Read “Request to Withdraw” – discussion of 480-510 Burnett Road project.

Notes: This item was originally scheduled for January 16, 2019. However, since that meeting was cancelled it was moved to the February 6, 2019 agenda with the permission of the Applicant’s representative. Staff read the letter for the record of the meeting.

Motion to accept the letter of withdrawal was made by Charles Payne and seconded by Sharon Balcom. Vote was 4-0 to accept the withdrawal letter.

Member	Approve	Deny	Continue	Abstain
James Reidy, Chair	X			
Celeste Donovan				
Charles Payne	X			
Nicole Dewberry	X			
Sharon Balcom	X			

Item 7: Adjournment – Next scheduled meeting is February 20, 2019

Motion to adjourn was made by Sharon Balcom and seconded by Nicole Dewberry. Vote was 4-0 to adjourn.

Member	Approve	Deny	Continue	Abstain
James Reidy, Chair	X			
Celeste Donovan				
Charles Payne	X			
Nicole Dewberry	X			
Sharon Balcom	X			

Meeting adjourned at 8:04 PM.