

**CITY OF CHICOPEE  
CONSERVATION COMMISSION  
Minutes of Meeting  
October 4, 2023**

**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, October 4, 2023 at 6:15 PM in the Chambers Conference Room, City Hall Annex, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor, 274 Front St., Chicopee, MA 01013**

---

**Celeste Donovan opened the meeting at 6:17 PM and announced that the meeting was being recorded.**

Conservation Commission attendance:

<b>Member</b>	<b>Present</b>	<b>Absent</b>	<b>Excused</b>
Celeste Donovan	<b>X</b>		
Charles Payne	<b>X</b>		
Meghan Balakier	<b>X</b>		
Richard Valcourt	<b>X</b>		
Bianca Thomas	<b>X</b>		
Barbara Chamberlain			<b>X</b>
Sharon Balcom	<b>X</b>		

Planning/Conservation Staff attendance:

<b>Member</b>	<b>Present</b>	<b>Absent</b>	<b>Excused</b>
Lee Pouliot, Director	<b>X</b>		
James Dawson, Development Manager			<b>X</b>
Nick Kiser, Associate Planner			<b>X</b>
Patrick Collins, Assistant Planner	<b>X</b>		

**Item 1: Restoration Plan** – Per the Commission’s discussion with property owner Mr. Antonio on September 6, 2023 regarding Enforcement Order (23-E001) at 129 Dejordy Lane – Professional Wetland Scientist, Steven Riberdy provided a restoration plan for 129 Dejordy Lane as directed by the Commission. The Commission to review the plan and advise Mr. Antonio on the next steps to meet the requirements of the Enforcement Order.

**Notes:** Steven Riberdy of Bog Hunter Environmental Services presented a Restoration Plan and reviewed the Enforcement Order with the Commission on behalf of Mr. Antonio. Mr. Riberdy explained that he had visited Mr. Antonio’s property in August and the grass he had planted was good in the fact that it prevented any erosion into the wetland buffer. Mr. Riberdy recommends leaving the existing grass and native plants along with erosion control for the winter. The goal is to restore a meadow type lawn and plantings in the Spring of 2024. Staff recommended erosion control in the form of staked straw bales be installed by November 1, 2023. Erosion control should be installed to Mr. Antonio’s property line with his neighbor and possibly onto the neighbor’s property if the neighbor agrees. Planning/Conservation staff to inspect the erosion control upon its installation. It is to remain in place until the Conservation commission gives Mr. Antonio permission to remove it.

Motion to approve the Restoration Plan with conditions was made by Charles Payne and seconded by Richard Valcourt. Vote was 6-0 to approve the Restoration Plan with conditions. \_\_\_\_\_.

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

**Item 2: Ratification of Enforcement Order (23-E002)** – 0 and 420 McKinstry Avenue (Maps 362 and 390, Parcels 46 and 1 – Excavation within Terrace Escarpment Soils and associated Buffer Zone.

**Notes:** Staff explained that a field survey will be needed to determine what violations, if any, exist. This is under the jurisdiction of the local ordinance. The Enforcement Order has been sent to the property owner requiring all work within the TE soils and buffer zone to cease. An NOI is to be submitted by November 1, 2023. No vote necessary to ratify the Enforcement Order.

**Item 3: Ratification of Enforcement Order (23-E003)** – 0 McKinstry Avenue (Map 389, Parcel 2) – Excavation within Terrace Escarpment Soils and associated Buffer Zone.

**Notes:** Staff explained that a field survey will be needed to determine what violations, if any, exist. This is under the jurisdiction of the local ordinance. The Enforcement Order has been sent to the property owner requiring all work within the TE soils and buffer zone to cease. An NOI is to be submitted by November 1, 2023. No vote necessary to ratify the Enforcement Order.

**Item 4: Minutes from September 6, 2023**

**Notes:** Commissioner Balcom reported 3 typos. Staff noted they would be corrected prior to filing the minutes with the City Clerk.

Motion to approve with noted corrections was made by Sharon Balcom and seconded by Charles Payne. Vote was 6-0 to approve with the noted corrections. \_\_\_\_\_.

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

**Item 5: Sign Bills**

**Notes:** Staff had one bill for the Commission to sign.

**Item 6: Upcoming Projects/Discussion/Communications**

- **Update on the Emergency Certification (23-EC001) Chicopee Comprehensive High School)**

Staff visited the site. The project was progressing nicely to completion and per the contractor would be completed by the 30-day deadline. An NOI is to follow later to address additional work in the area.

- **October 18, 2023 meeting - Restoration response from The Food Bank of Western Massachusetts regarding the Enforcement Order issued on Sept. 15, 2023.**

A representative for the Food Bank presented an overview of the failure of the erosion controls due to extreme rainfall and lack of maintenance of the stormwater system. A full presentation on responses to the Enforcement Order will take place at the October 18, 2023 meeting.

- **Required update on Restoration of 535 East Main Street**

Commission to review and discuss at their October 18, 2023 meeting.

**Item 7: Adjournment** – Next scheduled meeting is October 18, 2023

Motion to adjourn was made by Richard Valcourt and seconded by Sharon Balcom. Vote was 6-0 to adjourn.

<b>Member</b>	<b>Approve</b>	<b>Deny</b>	<b>Continue</b>	<b>Abstain</b>
Celeste Donovan	X			
Charles Payne	X			
Meghan Balakier	X			
Richard Valcourt	X			
Bianca Thomas	X			
Sharon Balcom	X			

**Meeting adjourned at 7:02 PM.**