

**CITY OF CHICOPEE  
CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

**Minutes of Meeting  
February 20, 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 20, 2019** at 6:15 PM, City Council Chambers, 4th Floor, City Hall.**

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**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:

<b>Member</b>	<b>Present</b>	<b>Absent</b>	<b>Excused</b>
James Reidy, Chair	<b>X</b>		
Jessica Dzwonkoski			<b>X</b>
Celeste Donovan	<b>X</b>		
Charles Payne	<b>X</b>		
Nicole Dewberry	<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>		
Patrick McKenna, Assistant Planner			<b>X</b>

**Item 1: RDA** for the construction of a new access road within the 100' Buffer Zone to Terrace Escarpment soils/Upstream Drainage with the Potential for Altering Wetlands. Location: From 166 Langevin St. to Eversource Transmission Line ROW, Line 1327/1428 to provide access to structures for scheduled and emergency maintenance. Applicant: Eversource Energy, 107 Selden St., Berlin, CT 06037

**Notes:** Tighe & Bond presented the RDA to the Commission and explained the reason for the new access road and also discussed the proposed erosion and sedimentation control measures. The Commissioners asked questions regarding the impacts of the project and set limitations to the project. The representative noted that new road would be gravel and be approximately 20' in width.

The Commissioners discussed the project and voted to make a Positive 6 Determination as the project is only jurisdictional under the local ordinance. The Commissioners also attached the following 5 conditions to the Determination:

1. The area of disturbance for the new access road shall be limited to a 20' wide area within which the new access road will be constructed.
2. Erosion Control shall consist of hay bales and silt fence installed at the edge of the 20' wide area of disturbance. Erosion Control to be inspected by the Chicopee Conservation Commission prior to commencement of any site work.
3. Any disturbed areas outside the gravel access road shall be seeded with a native stabilization seed mix which is to be approved by the Chicopee Conservation Commission.
4. The Chicopee Conservation Commission shall be notified when the project is completed in order to perform a site inspection with the Applicant.
5. The Chicopee Conservation Commission shall perform an inspection with the Applicant one year after project completion to assure that any disturbed areas have been satisfactorily stabilized. The Conservation Commission may require further work if stabilization is not satisfactory.

Motion to approve the request with a Positive 6 Determination with noted conditions was made by Celeste Donovan and seconded by Nicole Dewberry. Vote was 5-0 to issue a Positive 6 Determination with conditions.

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

**Item 2: Minutes** from February 6, 2019

**Notes:** Commissioner Dewberry noted that the term “woody” should be inserted in the notes under Item 1. Staff agreed that the word was inadvertently omitted and would insert the term prior to filing the minutes.

Motion to approve the minutes with the noted amendment was made by Sharon Balcom and seconded by Celeste Donovan. Vote was 5-0 to approve the minutes of February 20, 2019 with the noted amendment.

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

**Item 3: Sign Bills**

**Notes:** Staff noted there were no bills to sign.

**Item 4: Ratification of Emergency Certification** for the Edward J. Bury Apartments – Hazardous Tree Removal

**Notes:** Staff briefed the Commission on the Emergency Certification that was issued for removal of a hazardous tree located within Riverfront Area at the Edward J. Bury Apartments on East Main Street. The Chicopee Housing Authority notified Planning/Conservation Staff of a severely compromised tree that was leaning in the direction of the apartment buildings and parking area. Staff had the City Tree Warden inspect the tree. The Tree Warden stated the tree was indeed very hazardous and should be removed immediately. Commissioner Dewberry asked about the possibility of leaving a portion of the trunk of the tree to remain for wildlife utilization. Staff stated this was not advised per the City Tree Warden due to the hazardous condition of the trunk of the tree and its proximity to the apartment building and parking area. The following conditions were placed on the Emergency Certification:

Removal of said tree to ground level. Root system to remain in place in order to prevent soil disturbance. Any and all cut tree debris shall be removed from the site leaving natural leaf litter in place. Notify the Chicopee Conservation Commission upon completion of work so an inspection can be conducted.

The Commission Ratified the Emergency Certification for the removal of the hazardous tree.

**Item 5: Adjournment** – Next scheduled meeting is March 6, 2019

Motion to adjourn was made by Nicole Dewberry and seconded by Sharon Balcom. Vote was 5-0 to adjourn.

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

**Meeting adjourned at 6:44 PM.**