

**SOUTH HADLEY CONSERVATION COMMISSION
VIRTUAL MEETING MINUTES
JUNE 24, 2020**

<https://vimeo.com/432552315>

Present: Bill DeLuca, Chair; Jim Canning, Vice-Chair; Bill Bacis, Member; Neva Tolopko, Member; Garth Schwellenbach, Member; Tom Dennis, member; Anne Capra, Conservation Administrator/Planner; Colleen Canning, Senior Clerk Planning and Conservation

Chair DeLuca called the virtual meeting to order at 6:03 PM and reviewed the protocols for virtual meetings. Six (6) out of six (7) Commissioners were present at the virtual meeting.

Agenda Item #1---Discuss and Consider Request for Certificate of Compliance for Loomis Village Pond Order of Conditions #288-440 (Map 21, Lot 1)

Robert Bucknell of Loomis Communities was present at the meeting along with the project consultant, Naomi Valentine of SWCA.

Naomi Valentine explained that no monitoring reports were submitted in 2017 and 2018 because no work relating to the order was performed those years. She added that a new Notice of Intent was submitted which would effectively replace this order and was to be considered under a later agenda item tonight.

Motion: Commissioner Bacis moved to issue a Certificate of Compliance to DEP file #288-0440 issued to Loomis Village for pond maintenance. Commissioner Schwellenbach seconded the motion. Six (6) out of six (6) commissioners present voted in favor of the motion by roll call.

Agenda Item #2 ---Public Hearing Continuance for Notice of Intent filed by The Loomis Communities Inc. for the operation and maintenance plan for a small pond to control nuisance aquatic vegetation and algae at 40 Worthington Drive (Map 21, Lot 1)

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Agenda Item #3 --- Public Hearing for Notice of Intent filed by The Loomis Communities Inc. for the removal of 99 cubic yards of sediment from a small pond at 40 Worthington Drive (Map 21, Lot 1)

The Conservation Administrator recommended that the Public Hearings be considered in tandem as they would impact one another.

Chair DeLuca called both Public Hearings into order at 6:10 PM by reading the notices out loud.

Robert Bucknell of Loomis Communities was present at the meeting along with the project consultant, Naomi Valentine of SWCA.

Naomi Valentine explained that the Notice of Intent (NOI) filings came in together because the maintenance order would satisfy ongoing maintenance of the pond following the dredge. Her firm has been working for the housing complex since 2016 and Loomis was now in a financial position to perform the dredge. The maintenance order would effectively replace the one closed

out under the previous agenda item. Invasive species management was proposed within the Buffer Zone of the pond. Ideally, maintenance would gradually decrease as the buffer was restored.

Vice-Chair Canning inquired about glyphosate use within the maintenance plan. Naomi Valentine explained that it was proposed for control of invasive species. However, alternatives could be proposed for control of some of the present invasives.

Chair DeLuca asked if there were differences within the previous order and current filing. Naomi Valentine responded that the new order included invasive species management and additional reporting to the Commission was proposed.

Naomi Valentine overviewed the dredge NOI filing. The dredge was proposed to restore the pond which was currently impaired by large sediment loads. This issue was exasperated due to the pond's warm shallow water. The dredge would be performed utilizing perimeter erosion controls under the supervision of a wildlife specialist. Any necessary heavy machinery would remain on the existing paved road.

Commissioner Bacis inquired how siltation would be addressed at the de-watering area. Naomi Valentine explained that the project would be done during the late summer when conditions were ideal. She added that the DEP recommended the dewatering plan be submitted to the Commission which could be included as a special condition. An environmental monitor would be present during the duration of the dredge.

Vice-Chair Canning inquired if the removed pond sediment would create a depression and inquired how potential 'spill over' of silt was addressed. Naomi Valentine explained that the sediment was tested and no contaminants were present. The removed sediment could be repurposed within the Loomis property grounds or it could be hauled off site. She explained that, as the pond was large relative to the removed sediment, the removed material would not be in excess of one foot.

Chair DeLuca inquired where the silt fence would be installed. Naomi Valentine responded that the silt fence would be located at the dewatering area.

Commissioner Tolopko inquired how long the dredge would take. Naomi Valentine responded that the dredge could be performed in one day.

Chair DeLuca inquired why the dewatering area was at a slope. Naomi Valentine responded the sloped area would be ideal with the correct controls. A vegetative barrier would be created between the pond and the dewatering area.

Chair DeLuca inquired about the existing conditions at the proposed dewatering area. Naomi Valentine responded that the area was currently lawn. The Chair inquired if the location could be replanted in a manner to promote greater ecological value to the area. Robert Bucknell responded that he would bring the request to Loomis Village's housing association.

The Conservation Administrator noted that both hearings needed to be continued to the next meeting date. She explained that the required comment period for posting in the Environmental Monitor for the proposed dredge was still open, required two week posting for Limited Projects under the WPA. Therefore, tonight's hearing could not close. Alterations of the dredge plan could potentially impact the maintenance order. Separately, the applicant stated that they would investigate glyphosate alternatives and report back to the Commission.

Motion: Commissioner Tolopko moved to continue the public hearings to consider DEP File #288-0465 and DEP File #288-0466 to July 15, 2020 at 6:00 PM. Commissioner Bacis seconded the motion. Six (6) out of six (6) Commissioners voted in favor of the motion by roll call

Agenda Item #4 --- Public Meeting for a Request for Determination filed by Ryan Moore for construction of a garage addition at 188 Morgan Street (Map 37, Parcel 1)

Chair DeLuca called the Public Meeting to order by reading the notice out loud at 6:58 PM.

The applicant, Ryan Moore, was present at the virtual meeting. He explained that he intended on constructing a garage addition that would extend the building's footprint 8 feet towards the abutting property line. As his direct abutter was Mount Holyoke College, they advised him to consult with the Conservation Commission as there were resource areas within their property boundary.

Chair DeLuca inquired if the project included additional pavement. Ryan Moore responded that there would be. The pavement would extend to the limit of the garage addition.

The Conservation Administrator noted that she performed a site visit. No trees would be removed and the location of the proposed addition was currently lawn.

Chair DeLuca closed the public meeting at 7:04 PM.

Motion: Commissioner Bacis moved to issue a Negative Determination #3 for the construction of a garage addition at 188 Morgan Street. Vice-Chair Canning seconded the motion. Six (6) out of six (6) Commissioners present voted in favor of the motion by roll call.

Agenda Item #6 --- Other New Business

Eversource Emergency Order

Simon Hildt, Eversource Energy, was present at the virtual meeting.

The Conservation Administrator explained that a transmission line had frayed on Line 1447 and was at risk of falling. Notice of the emergency had been received earlier that day. An emergency needed to be declared by a designated Town safety official prior to issuance of the emergency order. At the time of the meeting an emergency had not yet been declared. Therefore, the order could not be acted upon. The Conservation Administrator further explained that Emergency Orders, like Enforcement Orders, could be issued by the Conservation Administrator prior to

Commission endorsement. Therefore, the order could be issued after declaration of an emergency.

Agenda Item #5 ---Administrator's Report

315 Amherst Road

The Conservation Administrator explained that Town Counsel had notified the land owner of the Town's intent to exercise its right of first refusal. She was working with the Town Administrator to satisfy all procedural requirements of the acquisition which included a public hearing. As LAND grant funding would be required, all time frames needed to align to secure the Town's purchase of the property. The COVID-19 state-of-emergency halted many required decision deadlines.

339 Pearl Street

The Conservation Administrator explained that the Selectboard voted to endorse the Town's designation as a 'co-holder' of the conservation restriction (CR) at the 'Adams Property' at 339 Pearl Street. The Commission voted to endorse the designation some months ago. Kestrel Land Trust would be the primary holder of the CR.

MVP Grant

The Conservation Administrator explained that the MVP Action Grant application was submitted. If granted, the funding would help perform a Town-wide assessment of culverts and identify the most compromised.

DEP 604b Grant

The Conservation Administrator explained that she was working on a grant application to develop a 'watershed-based plan' for the BATTERY Brook Watershed. The plan would aim to manage peak flow and pollutant loading.

Minutes

Draft minutes of the March 4, 2020 and May 14, 2020 virtual meeting had been previously transmitted to the Board for their review.

Member Dennis left the meeting at 7:26 PM.

Motion: Commissioner Schwellenbach moved to approve the March 4, 2020 and the May 14, 2020 draft minutes. Vice-Chair Canning seconded the motion. Five (5) out of five (5) members present voted in favor of the motion by roll call.

Meeting Dates

The Conservation Commission meeting dates were confirmed as follows:

August 5, 2020
August 26, 2020
September 16, 2020

Adjournment

Chair DeLuca adjourned the meeting at 7:29 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Colleen Canning, Senior Clerk Planning and Conservation

Appendix

Document	Document Location
Loomis Communities NOI #288-0465	Conservation Files
Loomis Communities NOI #288-0466	Conservation Files
188 Morgan Street RDA	Conservation Files
Eversource Emergency Notification Line 1447	Conservation Files