

**SOUTH HADLEY CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
FEBRUARY 12, 2020**

Present: Jim Canning, Vice-Chair; Bill Bacis, Member; Garth Schwellenbach, Member; Tom Dennis, Member; Julie Watson, Associate Member; Anne Capra, Conservation Administrator/Planner; Colleen Canning, Senior Clerk Planning and Conservation; Michael Matyszewski, 7 Valley View; Stephen Franz, 300 North Main Street

As the Chair was absent, Vice-Chair Canning called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

The Conservation Administrator explained that only three regular Commissioners were present at the meeting. As there were seven regular members on the Commission, at least four members needed to be present for quorum. Therefore, action could not be taken on any items during the course of tonight's meeting. Action would be considered at the next regular meeting on March 4, 2020.

Agenda Item #1 --- 6:00 PM Public Meeting Continuance for Request for Determination filed by Michael Matyszewski for removal of trees at 7 Valley View Drive (Map 23, Parcel 115)

As the Chair was absent, Vice-Chair Canning opened the public meeting continuance by reading the notice at 6:00 PM.

The applicant, Michael Matyszewski of 7 Valley View Drive, was present at the meeting.

The Conservation Administrator explained that the applicant submitted a detailed plan of the trees proposed for removal which identified each tree by number. The arborist who assessed the trees reported that the height of the trees paired with the site's hydric soils created hazard conditions. The Commission performed a site visit on February 12th to assess the proposed removal. Trees 1-5 were identified as dead and would be permissible to cut. Trees 7, 12, 14, 16, 17 and 20 were candidates for removal as they were either leaning toward the house or in poor condition. Trees 6, 8, 9, 10, 11 and 19 were not candidates for removal as they were either not leaning at all or leaning away from the house, and/or in good condition. Defected trees or trees leaning towards the residence were considered appropriate for removal. Trees in good condition or trees leaning away from the residence were not considered appropriate for removal. Mitigation for removal would be achieved through planting trees, shrubs and a wetland seed mix which would help maintain the forested edge and aid in understory growth. The selection of species would require approval from the Conservation Administrator and the plantings would require a two year survival rate. The existing concrete bound marking the edge of the Resource Area needed to remain undisturbed.

Motion: Commissioner Schwellenbach moved to continue the Public Meeting to March 4, 2020 at 6:00 PM. Commissioner Bacis seconded the motion.

The motion could not carry as there was no quorum. The item would be taken up for consideration at the next regular meeting on March 4, 2020.

Agenda Item #2 --- 6:00 PM Public Hearing Continuance for Notice of Intent filed by Ledges Golf Club for general maintenance of the golf course at 18 Mulligan Drive (Map 23 & 42, Parcels 1, 48, 71, 72 & 73)

The Conservation Administrator explained that the site visit scheduled in anticipation of the public hearing continuance was cancelled due to weather. Therefore, the hearing needed to be continued to allow for the site visit to be rescheduled. Regardless, action could not be taken as there was no quorum.

Motion: Vice-Chair Canning move to continue the Public Hearing to March 4, 2020 at 6:00 PM. Commissioner Schwellenbach seconded the motion.

The motion could not carry as there was no quorum. The item would be taken up for consideration at the next regular meeting on March 4, 2020.

Agenda Item #3 --- Discuss and Consider Approval of Meeting Minutes from January 29, 2020

The minutes could not be approved as there was no quorum. Action would be considered at the next regular meeting on March 4, 2020.

Agenda Item #4 --- Administrator's Report including updates on projects, violations, next meeting dates

Eversource ROW Maintenance

The Conservation Administrator explained that Eversource submitted their annual report of routine maintenance within their right-of-way. The report was posted on the Town's website and required no action from the Commission.

Conservation Area Trail Mapping

The Conservation Administrator explained that the Assessor's online data viewer was being updated to include mapping of trails on Town conservation lands. The update was anticipated to take effect within the upcoming months. Trail maps are currently available as PDFs on the Conservation Commission webpage at <https://www.southhadley.org/957/Trail-Maps>.

River Cleanup

The Conservation Administrator explained that South Hadley High School had expressed interest in scheduling a river clean-up with the Commission following the successful regional clean-up a few months ago. The clean-up was tentatively scheduled the week of May 18th.

Commissioner Bacis noted that the Connecticut River might be high at that time of year. The Conservation Administrator agreed. She explained that the date was decided upon based on the graduating senior class's availability. If the Connecticut River were too high, the event would be cancelled.

2020 Census

The Conservation Administrator explained that the decennial Federal Census would be held soon. Accurate census numbers put the Town in the best position for grant funding, investments and accurate representation. She urged everyone to submit their census questionnaire upon receipt.

Upcoming Events

The Conservation Administrator notified the Commission of events that would be held within the upcoming months as follows: 1) Kestrel Land Trust would be hosting an Open Space Workshop on March 16th at 6:30PM at the South Hadley Library, 2) the Massachusetts Land Conservation Conference would be held March 28th at Worcester Technical High School, and 3) the Massachusetts Open Space Conference would be held April 25th at 9:30 AM at Greenfield Community College.

Agenda Item #5 --- Other New Business (topics which the Chair could not reasonably expect to be discussed/considered as of the date of this notice).

Commissioner Schwellenbach inquired about the status of the Planning Board hearings on the North Pole Estates Definitive Subdivision Plan. The Conservation Administrator explained that the Public Hearing was continued to March 9th. The applicant paid the fee for peer-review of the project which has allowed the review to commence.

Vice-Chair Canning noted that he had been in contact with Paul Catanzaro from UMass-Amherst regarding forest management. He was hoping to schedule him for a dual speaking engagement for the Tree Committee and the Conservation Commission. The Conservation Administrator noted that the speaking engagement could be used in concert with different initiatives relating to MVP (Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness) grant funding.

Stephen Franz, 300 North Main Street, addressed the Commission. He reviewed the chemicals used in maintenance of Ledges Golf Course and observed that a number of them were identified as suspected or known carcinogens. Separately, Stephen Franz noted that the Board of Health recently banned the use of Glyphosate on all Town property. He questioned how the ban would affect Eversource ROW maintenance activities.

Adjournment

As there was no additional business, Vice-Chair Canning adjourned the meeting at 6:36 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Colleen Canning, Senior Clerk Planning and Conservation

Appendix

Document	Document Location
7 Valley View – Tree Removal Plan and Arborist Report (2/7/20)	Conservation Files