

SOUTH HADLEY CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES

July 20, 2009

Approved at 8/31/09 meeting.

PRESENT: Jack Fleming, Chair; James Canning, Brad Allen, and Art Jackson. Dennis Swartwout excused. Janice Stone, Conservation Administrator.

7:00 PM OPEN FORUM Opportunity for the public to come in and ask questions, discuss wetland concerns with the Conservation Commission. Paul Duchenev present from HG&E, to discuss plans for *Gatehouse Park*. He described the work they wanted to contract out soon, including plantings, benches, historic markers, and removal of a concrete platform and replace with 3 precast panels. He left a copy of July 2009 plans for the Commission to review, and asked for permission to proceed with the work without any additional permitting. Work is over and next to water (river and canal) but not in it, on already developed land. Commission agreed, and will issue letter. Discussion about *Lower Riverside Park*. No word on DEP's decision on appeal. HG&E has hired Tighe & Bond to upgrade specifications for demolition of *Texon* building. Paul Dineen from River Road asked to speak, to express his concern about the filling of *the Cove* with sediment. He gave the Commission a letter requesting they work on restoring the Cove.

7:15 PM PUBLIC MEETING on a Request for Determination filed by Shawn LeBlanc, for demolition and cleanup of burned home in the Riverfront Area at *80 River Road*. Shawn reminded the Commission about the structure fire that destroyed his house around Christmas time. He is still dealing with the insurance company, but needs to get started on restoring the site. He is requesting permission to demolish the house and clean up the site, in preparation of another filing of a Notice of Intent, for new house construction in the same area. He is planning on using a smaller footprint, and moving the house further from the water's edge. There will be no alteration of trees. Paul Dineen, who lives across the street, reminded Shawn that the 150' Riverfront Area extends to the road, and the Bordering Land Subject to Flooding (100 year floodplain) is close to Paul's house. Shawn stated the silt fence will be the work limit line. There will be no permanent structures built at this time, only roll-offs. They are planning on building a replacement 10'x12' shed. Commission agreed to let him rebuild shed in same place, on 4 concrete blocks and some stone. Jim made a motion to approve the project with a negative determination #3. Brad seconded, and all voted in favor.

7:30 PM PUBLIC MEETING on a Request for Determination filed by Edward Griffin, for possible construction of house, driveway and lawn in the Riverfront Area at *15 Priestly Farms Road*. The house will be in the outer 100-200' Riverfront, some lawn and sprinkler system may be installed in the outer Riverfront as well. They may need to move the driveway a little, to save a few trees. Commission agreed. Art made a motion to approve the project with a negative determination # 2. Brad seconded, all voted in favor.

7:40 PM OLD & NEW BUSINESS: Bills payable. Jim reviewed the bills, made a motion to approve them for payment. Brad seconded, all in favor. Brad made a motion to ratify the

issuance of the Emergency Certification for breaching the beaver dams at the *Ledges* golf course. Art seconded, and all voted in favor.

7:45 PM PUBLIC HEARING, continued on a Notice of Intent (288-399) filed by the *Orchards Golf Club* Arnold Palmer Golf Management for routine maintenance work within the buffer zone and some resource areas at the Orchards Golf Club. Dan Nitzsche from Baystate Environmental and Matt Streeter from the Orchards were there to discuss the work with the Commission. Dan presented new revised plans, based on comments from the site visit June 17 and before. He submitted a response letter to the second list of questions generated by Janice, and then briefly went over each of the concerns. He explained that they would be planting 6 red oaks and hickories 5-7' tall in the area off the 2nd tee where cutting had been done in violation several years ago, on the side away from the tee. They will also maintain the area closer to the tee by cutting back saplings and painting their stems with herbicide to keep new trees from growing in on that side. The only anticipated tree trimming is along the 8th and 15th fairways. They will work on removing/reducing the bittersweet in the red maple wetland near the 5th. Dan discussed the maintenance of the stilling basins and sediment traps, adding sediment markers so the crew knows when it is time to clean them out. All cleanouts will be only in the area of riprap. The Commission also discussed and agreed to maintaining with handtools a 2' wide channel in the ditches/intermittent streams that are in the managed turf areas. They discussed the pipes found discharging in the wetland east of the maintenance area. They (Orchards) have not figured out where they originate, but will research it some more. In the meantime they won't wash their vehicles in the lot where they think one of the pipes is coming from. Commission agreed to allow them to remove the sediment delta built up in the pond near the 6th, replacing the vegetation afterwards. Matt discussed the fertilizers and pesticides he uses on the land. He has to report yearly to the state all the chemicals he uses, and is licensed to use them only as the label allows. Commission discussed red markers (lateral hazards) to keep golfers out of the wetland areas, as well as the yellow hazards (water). Suggested they add "Environmentally Sensitive Area" signs like Ledges has, for wetland areas. Management needs to make sure the grass clippings do not get dumped into the wetlands and near buffer zones, as seen during the site visit. Matt showed the Commission his "bible" on conservation information for the property. During the winter he will get it into digital form. Brad made a motion to approve their Notice of Intent with revisions and issue an Order of Conditions with standard and special conditions. Art seconded, all voted in favor. Brad made a motion to close the hearing, seconded by Art, all voted in favor.

8:40 PM OLD & NEW BUSINESS: . Request for Extension of Maintenance Order of Conditions for the *Ledges Golf Course* (288-371), 18 Mulligan Drive. Brad made the motion, seconded by Art, to approve a 3-year extension. All voted in favor. Request for Extension of Maintenance Order of Conditions for *South Hadley DPW* (288-366), 10 Industrial Drive. Commission discussed with Yem Lip, DPW engineer, recent activities of concern to the Commission, in violation of the WPA and bylaw. *Titus Pond* example, where DPW came in and cut down all trees and vegetation along the bank in front of Titus Pond, without Conservation Commission approval as manager of the land and for wetlands permitting. Yem told the Commission they considered it like mowing the fields on the other town land, part of maintenance. Commission pointed out in the DPW Maintenance Order of Conditions that it specifically states in more than one place that any work on conservation land required prior

approval of the Commission first. Commission then discussed with Yem the anticipated Notice of Intent for dam repairs at Titus Pond, and what will be done about the outlet structure. DPW may want to eliminate flow structure, Commission may need to hire expert to determine if this would have a negative impact on the pond and management of it. They also discussed how to reduce the duckweed covering the pond, perhaps through use of a fountain, like Mount Holyoke College and UMass are doing on their ponds. Commission discussed some outstanding items from the original Order, not yet received. Yem said they did prioritize street sweeping this year to do wetland and environmentally sensitive areas first. Janice asked that the Conservation Commission be put on the mailing list for the annual report that goes to EPA from the DPW (Melissa LaBonte), so the Commission can know what is happening with the stream monitoring that they are doing. Brad made a motion to extend the Order of Conditions for one more year, and then review again in a year. Jim seconded, all voted in favor. Conservation land projects. Janice discussed the Request for Determination for maintenance work on the *Titus Pond* and *LeBlanc* conservation areas. She will schedule the public meeting on it for 8 PM on August 10th. Beachgrounds Park. Treated dead bittersweet vines are left hanging in the trees in picnic area, need to be removed. Dirt pile still in front. Minutes. Commission reviewed June 8th and June 29th minutes. Art made a motion to approve both, seconded by Brad. All voted in favor.

9:15 PM ADJOURNMENT. Jim made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Art, and all voted unanimously in favor. Next regular Conservation Commission meeting will be August 10, 2009 at 7:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Janice Stone

Janice Stone,
Conservation Administrator