

SOUTH HADLEY CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
October 6, 2008
Approved at 12/8/08 meeting.

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

1. 7:00 PM OPEN FORUM Opportunity for the public to come in and ask questions, discuss wetland concerns with the Conservation Commission. John Manley, President of the Board of Trustees of *Shadowbrook Estates* was present to discuss the retention pond and another drainage problem. Mr. Manley told the Commission that they have hired Melissa Cody from Tighe & Bond to examine the pond and offer advice on why it is not functioning as it should. They are waiting for her to come out and inspect it. He then discussed a problem they were having with clogged drainage pipes leading to the catch basin next to a wetland. They will have to dig down 3-4 feet to replace the drain pipe in the lawns and paved area to the catch basin. The Commission told him they will need to file a Request for Determination for work in the buffer zone.

2. 7:15 PM PUBLIC MEETING on a Request for Determination filed by *Omer & Shirley Gingras* for construction of a 12'x13' deck within 50 feet of a wetland at 17 Strong Farm Lane. The deck will be in the lawn area behind the unit, about 30' from the wetland edge. It will be on sonotubes, so there will not be much disturbance of the lawn or ground. They will dig the holes by hand. Jim made a motion to approve the project with a negative determination # 3 (work in the buffer, but will not alter resource area) and #6 (not subject to further review under the bylaw). Brad seconded, and all voted in favor.

3. 7:25 PM OLD & NEW BUSINESS *Bills payable.* Jim reviewed the bills and made a motion to approve payment of all of them. Dennis seconded, and all voted in favor. Janice mentioned *Make a Difference Day* in the Falls on October 18. People have asked to do "cleanup" in the buffer zone area between the Egg & I parking lot and the stream.

4. 7:30 PM PUBLIC MEETING on a Request for Determination filed by *John Flynn* for construction of a 12'x12' deck within 50 feet of a wetland at 15 Strong Farm Lane. The deck will be placed over an existing brick patio and lawn. Similar situation as # 17. Brad made a motion to approve the project with a negative determination # 3 (work in the buffer, but will not alter resource area) and #6 (not subject to further review under the bylaw). Dennis seconded, and all voted in favor.

5. 7:25 PM OLD & NEW BUSINESS,continued. Ratification of Emergency Certification for *Mount Holyoke College*, Dickinson Hall drainage problem off Faculty Lane. Janice explained the situation, and that the work is now almost complete. Start date was 9/22, and end date 10/21. They did have to cut a 20' wide swath through the woods to the brook. They will stabilize and plant or seed with native species. Brad made the motion to approve ratification of the Emergency Order. Jim seconded, and all voted in favor and signed. Request for Certificate of

Compliance on Order of Conditions for garage at 2 *Bach Lane*, by Ernest Couture (288-99). This is for a garage about 100' back from Bachelor Brook. It is from 1989. Notes in the file at the time of the work stated it was done correctly. Dennis made the motion to approve issuance of the Certificate of Compliance, seconded by Art, and approved and signed by all.

6. 7:45 PM PUBLIC HEARING, continued on a Notice of Intent (288-396) filed by the Trustees of *Mount Holyoke College* for routine maintenance and improvement of infrastructure on the Mount Holyoke College campus, within resource areas and buffer zones, on the campus, including Morgan and Park Streets. Paul Breen for Mount Holyoke College and Bruce Griffin, consultant from New England Environmental present to discuss concerns with Commission. Janice summarized the discussions she had with the applicant and consultant since last meeting, and changes that have been made to the plans. Bruce discussed the use of salt and sand on the roads and paths on campus. They have looked into alternatives, but there are various problems with using them. The beer byproduct that the Town uses on the public roads is too sticky to use on paths and sidewalks. Pedestrian safety is important on campus. They use mostly sand, only salt as needed, and would not like to be required to use alternatives. Commission discussed concern about removal of trees along the banks of the lakes and stream. Paul explained it would be done on a case by case basis, with prior notification and approval from the Commission or agent. Art made a motion to approve the project with standard and special conditions. Dennis seconded, and all voted in favor and signed.

7. 8:00 PM OLD & NEW BUSINESS, continued. Commission agreed to resign a Certificate of Compliance on Order of Conditions for David Ladizki, for 20 *Valley View* (lot 12) (288-308). Original was issued a while ago, was not recorded and can't be found. They signed, but left the original date as the date of issuance. Discussion of *Stonegate lots* development. Janice explained concern about where Commission stands when there are significant changes proposed to a lot with specific setbacks and footprints approved. DEP has the Superceding Orders but shouldn't the bylaw kick in? Wait to hear DEP's response to applicant's request. Discussion about trail work at *Black Stevens Conservation Area*. Are conditions bad enough that something should be done now, as a safety issue? Lin Pickle thinks not. Commission discussed setting a meeting of the land subcommittee/Friends group for early November, to get feedback on trails and some help fixing them. Discussion of truck access at *Bachelor Brook/Stony Brook Conservation Area*. How to keep them out?

6. 8:25 PM ADJOURNMENT. Brad made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Art, and all voted unanimously in favor. Next regular Conservation Commission meeting will be October 27, 2008 at 7:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Janice Stone,
Conservation Administrator