

SOUTH HADLEY CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
November 7, 2008
Approved at 12/8/08 meeting.

PRESENT: Jack Fleming, Chair; Dennis Swartwout, Vice Chair and Brad Allen. Jim Canning and Art Jackson excused because of work hours. Janice Stone, Conservation Administrator. The Commission met in the Conservation Office, Room 205

1. 9:30 AM DISCUSSION about the *Shadowbrook* retention pond. The consultant for the developer (Baystate Environmental/Valley Planning) has expressed reluctance to submit a Request for an Amendment to the Order of Conditions (288-331). He is asking that the Commission consider the proposal to make the orifice (outlet pipe) from the retention pond larger (2" diameter to 4") an "administrative change". The Commission discussed what the distinction was between the two options. The Amendment request requires a vote from the Commission to consider it, then a legal hearing with legal notice and abutter notifications, and discussion of plans in public. The Commission discussed concerns with the pond beyond the high water level and change in outlet pipe diameter, including the slumping unvegetated banks, the lack of vegetation in the pond, and the possible animal burrows in the banks. These should be addressed as well. The applicant's engineer has stated that the problem with the water level is related to the incorrect soil type being used for the stormwater calculations. The clay soils have less infiltration and more runoff. Perhaps the engineer should check to see whether the pond itself needs to be resized, not just the outlet pipe. In order to have this discussion, and require review of these plans with the new soil type, there should be a public hearing process. Jack made a motion on the consensus, seconded by Dennis, to require an Amendment to the Orders, not just an administrative change. Approved by all.

2. 10:00 AM ADJOURNMENT. A motion was made to adjourn, which was seconded, and voted unanimously in favor. Next regular Conservation Commission meeting November 17, 2008 at 6:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Janice Stone,
Conservation Administrator