

**SOUTH HADLEY CONSERVATION COMMISSION**  
**MEETING MINUTES**  
**February 28, 2018**

**PRESENT:** William (Bill) DeLuca, Chair; Jack Fleming, Vice Chair; William (Bill) Bacis, Member; Jim Canning, Member; Neva Tolopko, Member; Alex Krofta, Associate Member; Anne Capra, Conservation Agent/Planner

Commission Chair Bill DeLuca opened the meeting at 6:00 PM.

**Issue iPads** – The Conservation Administrator assigned iPads to each of the members present, with the exception of Jack Fleming who declined to receive one due to the anticipated end of his term in the coming months.

**Eversource Line 1447/1327/1428 Pole Replacement Project** – On 2/21/18, Bill DeLuca and Anne Capra attended a site visit with representatives of Eversource Energy and walked a section of their ROW slated for replacement of wood utility poles with metal poles. The site walk was within the Bachelor Brook-Stony Brook Conservation Area, and an area off of Newton Street along Buttery Brook. Of particular focus were the areas of impact to Resource Areas, particularly within the 50' Conservation Zone. Eversource stated that they will be seeking approval for mitigation to the areas of permanent impact to the 50' Conservation Zone. The Commissioners discussed the location, scale and scope of potential mitigation projects, and asked the Conservation Administrator to seek guidance about precedents from other communities.

**Black Stevens Pond Site Visit with MassDOT and South Hadley DPW** – Bill Bacis asked to report about the site visit on 2/2/18 to discuss the backflow of stormwater observed at the manhole on the southwest corner of the High School property, due north of the trailhead and entrance to Black Stevens Conservation Area. The meeting was attended by the Commissioners Bill Bacis and Neva Tolopko, Conservation Administrator Anne Capra, three representatives from MassDOT, and Jim Reidy, South Hadley DPW. Bill shared his photos of the backflows and described how the pond has infilled over the years. MassDOT shared engineering plans of the culvert repair that they did approximately 10 years ago. At that time, the culvert was bypassed due to some structural issues with it, and flow diverted to the storm drain in the road, where it then flowed to the storm drain outfall on the stream on the north side of the road. All agreed that the storm drain line could be at capacity during large storm events which is why it backflows from the manhole, or there could be a blockage. Jim Reidy agreed to camera the line from the manhole to the main, and possibly to the outlet, to determine if there is a blockage. MassDOT also noted that connections to their storm sewer are considered illicit and do need to be disconnected. This would apply to the connections from the High School property as well as the pond.

The group also looked at the plans of the stormwater outfalls at the head of Newton Smith Brook. Bill B. noted that the amount of stormwater surging the brook from those outfalls is causing bank erosion and infilling the pond. He stated that some solution to manage runoff at that end of the system is also needed.

**Minutes from 1/17/18 and 2/14/18** - The Commissioners stated that the minutes from

January 17<sup>th</sup> and February 14<sup>th</sup> looked good. **Motion:** Commissioner Tolopko moved and Commissioner Canning seconded the motion to accept the meeting minutes of January 17 and February 14, 2018. The Commission voted **Five (5)** out of **Five (5)** members present in favor of the motion.

**Canoe and Kayak Access Proposed for Canal Street** – Commissioner Bacis stated that The Canal Park Committee is working with HG&E to establish a canoe and kayak launch site on property owned by HG&E on Canal Street.

Commission Chair DeLuca adjourned the meeting at approximately 7:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted  
Anne Capra

### **Attachment A**

List of Documents Reviewed in February 28, 2018 Conservation Commission Meeting

<b><u>Document</u></b>	<b><u>Record Location</u></b>
Conservation Meeting Agenda	Conservation Agenda & Minutes Binder
Minutes	Conservation Agenda & Minutes Book Individual Project Files