

1 Holyoke Conservation Commission Minutes 5/28/2020 (Held Remotely via Zoom)

2 Conservation Commission Members Present: Michael Dodge (Chairperson), Price Armstrong, Mary
3 Moriarty, Bernice Bowler, Jeffery Horan, Rosemary Arnold

4 Members of the public present: Timothy Hamel, David Pickart, Albert J. Bowler, Melissa Kaplan

5 1) Call to Order

6 Chairperson Dodge called the public meeting to order at 6:16 PM

7 The Commission voted unanimously to take the third item of the agenda (35 Reservation Rd. Violation)
8 next out of order.

9 2) Discussion – Enforcement Order, Issued 5/21/2020

10 Location: 35 Reservation Road (MBP 221-00-017 and -018)

11 Description: Extensive dumping of organic material in bordering vegetated wetland and alteration of
12 stream hydrology

13 Chairperson Dodge invited Director Glogower to give a summary on the background of the violation
14 investigation.

15 Director Glogower explained that in April, 2020, he responded to complaints from a neighbor at 51
16 Reservation Road of brush dumping into a bordering vegetated wetland between the two properties. On
17 May 21st he and Commissioner Arnold followed up with a site visit to document the violation from the
18 neighboring property. In consultation with Chairperson Dodge, he issued an emergency enforcement
19 order to Timothy Hamel at 35 Reservation Rd. later in the day on May 21st, ordering a stop to any
20 dumping activities and for him to be present at the next Conservation Commission meeting to discuss
21 the violation and steps forward

22 The Conservation Commission voted unanimously to ratify the Enforcement Order issued on May 21st.

23 The Commission invited Timothy Hamel to speak, with pictures of the site with marked property
24 boundaries shared onscreen for reference. He explained that the original wetland alterations on the site
25 go back farther than his time there, and argued that his own modifications were fairly minimal.
26 Background was given on the land use history of the adjoining wetland system on other parcels. He said
27 that his main activities involved fixing the drainage pipe from the pond upstream, clearing algae from
28 the periodically backed-up stream and placing woody debris in an attempt to halt erosion.

29 The Commission and Timothy Hamel discussed possible remediation measures that could be taken on
30 site in light of its complex history. It was determined that essential actions should minimally include
31 removal of brush and other woody material and repatriation of native wetland plants. Timothy Hamel
32 requested permission to also construct a small pond over a suspected wetland seep, build a small
33 footbridge across the stream to connect with a neighboring property, and remove several trees in poor
34 health that lie adjacent to the stream and maintained yard on 35 Reservation Road.

35 The Commission voted unanimously to order Timothy Hamel to create a restoration plan in consultation
36 with the Conservation Director, to be presented for discussion and possible approval of the
37 Conservation Commission at a later public meeting.

38 3) Public Hearing (continued) - Notice of Intent, Proposed Utility Line Work (DEP 186-0281)

39 Applicant: NSTAR Electric Company d/b/a Eversource Energy

40 Representative: BSC Group Inc.

41 Location: 1447/1428 Line OPGW Installation

42 Description: Work within the 200 ft. Riverfront

43 Melissa Kaplan of BSC Group presented the project on behalf of the applicant. As requested at the
44 previous public meeting, Melissa Kaplan provided the section of the Eversource BMP manual pertinent
45 to the regrading and reseeding stage of this project.

46 The Commission members and public had no further questions. Director Glogower read through a draft
47 Order of Conditions for the project and made several changes in consultation with the Commission and
48 the project representative, including clarification on project work limits and specific erosion control
49 protocols.

50 The Commission voted unanimously to close the public hearing for this item.

51 The Commission voted unanimously to approve the project.

52 The Commission voted unanimously to approve an Order of Conditions for this project DEP 186-0281,
53 with conditions as discussed.

54 4) Mail/other items not reasonably anticipated by the Chair

55 Chairperson Dodge shared that his and Commissioner Bowler's reconfirmation hearings on 5/20/20
56 went successfully, and both were approved for another 3 year term.

57 Director Glogower invited Commissioners to join site visits for an upcoming project at 56 Canal St., and
58 current project at 200 Northampton St.

59 Director Glogower and Commissioner Arnold gave an update on ATV enforcement at the Gloutak Woods
60 property.

61 5) Adjourn

62 The Commission voted unanimously to close the public meeting at 8:17 PM

63 These Minutes were respectfully prepared by Yoni Glogower on behalf of the Holyoke Conservation
64 Commission.