



Holyoke Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes 01/13/2022 (Remote via Zoom)

Conservation Commission Members Present: Bernice Bowler (Chairperson), Jeffery Horan (Vice Chairperson), Mary Moriarty, John Perdrizet, Chelsea Gazillo, Michael Dodge, Rosemary Arnold

Conservation Commission Members Absent:

Staff Present: Yoni Glogower (Holyoke Conservation and Sustainability Director)

1. Call to Order

Chairperson Bowler called the public meeting to order at 6:30 PM. Chair Bowler then explained the protocols for remote open meetings.

2. Public Hearing (continued) – Notice of Intent (WE 186-0292)

Applicant: Holyoke Energy Storage 1, LLC c/o Convergent Energy + Power

Representative: Stantec Consulting Services Inc.

Location: Sargeant Street (MBP 019-01-003)

Description: Battery storage construction on an existing paved lot within the 100-foot buffer zone of banks

Sean Foster, consulting for Holyoke Energy did a quick overview of the project. Sean shared his screen with the Commission, Showing the commission a modified plan. Sean discussed an alternative design was conducted showing other layouts were not feasible due to site constraints. Director Glogower and Commissioner Arnold had a site visit on 1/10/2022. During the site visit Director Glogower requested for a tree to be removed. Sean stated removing the tree was no problem and he will replace it with new topsoil. Director Glogower discussed his site visit with commissioner. Director Glogower stated during the site visit it was discussed that maintaining road access is very important and how HG&E does not like putting woody vegetation along the canal side. It was mentioned that the concrete wash out area was moved out of the buffer zone per commission request. Commissioner Arnold mention along the bank there were native species coming in. Chair Bowler requested for memo to be pulled up to make sure all the requirements are being met. Sean summarized the 4 points on the memo to let commissioner know that the requirements are being met. There were no questions from the public. Commissioner Dodge made a motion and Commissioner Arnold seconded, to approve the variance. The motion carried 7 yes and 0 no.

Director Glogower went over the draft of condition and made the commissioner aware of a few edits/comments Sean had made. The Commission made a few updates on the draft of condition. Commissioner Moriarty made a motion and Commissioner Dodge seconded, to close the public hearing. The motion carried 7-0.

Commissioner Horan made a motion and Commissioner Moriarty seconded, to approve the Notice of intent with the conditions agreed to. The motion carried 7-0.



3. Formal Vote – Approve minutes from 9/2/21, 9/23/21, and 10/14/21 meetings

Commissioner Moriarty made a motion and Commissioner Horan seconded to approve the minutes from 9/2/21, 9/23/21, and 10/14/21. The motion carried 6 yes and 1 abstain. Director Glogower informed the commissioner about hiring a local firm to start doing minutes. Director Glogower mentioned commissioner Moriarty was helping him look into local firms. Director Glogower stated that it will be paid by NOI fees. The commissioner like the idea presented to them. A motion was made by commissioner Horan and seconded by Commissioner Moriarty for Director Glogower to decide with a firm to have meeting minutes contracted. The motion carried 7-0.

4. Discussion – Upcoming Items for (tentative) 1/27/22 Meeting

Director Glogower informed the commission as of right now there are no new projects. Chair Bowler requested the calendar to be pull up to set the Conservation meeting dates. Director Glogower shared his screen and showed the commission all meeting dates for the year.

5. Mail/other items not reasonably anticipated by the Chair

Director Glogower asked if a commissioner was available for a site visit on 1/14/22. Glogower mentioned he received a complaint from an abutter on Reservation Road regarding 475 Northampton St. According to the complaint there are large trucks being park on the Wetland Resource area. Commissioner Arnold stated she was available for a site visit any time before 2pm.

6. Adjourn

Commissioner Moriarty made a motion at 7:48 pm to adjourn the meeting.

Attendees who cause disruptions may be warned, muted, or removed from the public meeting at the discretion of the Chairperson.