



William F. Martin
Mayor

City known as the Town of
GREENFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Town Hall • 14 Court Square • Greenfield, MA 01301
Phone 413-772-1548 ext 3 • Fax 413-772-1309
Conservation@greenfield-ma.gov • www.greenfield-ma.gov

Members:
Griffin, John (2019)
LaForme, Erika (2019)
Miller, Gail (2017)
Mosher, Timothy (2018)

GREENFIELD CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Minutes of Tuesday, November 22, 2016

**7:00 p.m. Greenfield Department of Planning and Development
114 Main Street**

The meeting was called to order by Chair, Timothy Mosher at 7:00 p.m. with the following members:

PRESENT: Timothy Mosher, Chair
Gail Miller *arrived at 7:05pm
John Griffin
Erika LaForme

ALSO PRESENT: Lincoln Fish, Forester
Maureen Pollock, Assistant Planner & Conservation Agent

Approval of Minutes:

Approval of Meeting Minutes from October 12, 2016

MOTION: Moved by Griffin, seconded by LaForme, no further discussion and voted 3-0-0 to accept the minutes from October 12, 2016.

Approval of Meeting Minutes from November 10, 2016

MOTION: Moved by Griffin, seconded by LaForme, no further discussion and voted 3-0-0 to accept the minutes from November 10, 2016.

Miller arrived at 7:05pm

Approval of Meeting Minutes from September 28, 2016

MOTION: Moved by Griffin, seconded by Miller, no further discussion and voted 4-0-0 to table the minutes from September 28, 2016.

Public Meetings/Hearings:

- **7:00p.m. ANRAD (DEP #168-0316) – Eastern Retail Properties, 166 South Shelburne Road:** Abbreviated Notice of Resource Area Delineation submitted by Eastern Retail Properties for property located at 166 South Shelburne Road (Assessor's Map R40, Lot 12), to determine



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whether the boundaries of wetland resource area(s) depicted on submitted plans is accurately delineated.

Mosher stated that applicant submitted a written statement requesting to continue the public hearing until the next regularly scheduled meeting.

MOTION Moved by Griffin, seconded by Miller, and voted 4-0 to continue the public hearing (DEP # 168-0316) until December 13, 2016.

Other Business:

- **GTD/Griswold Conservation Land: Forest Stewardship Plan:** Lincoln Fish was present to update the Commission regarding updates made to the existing Forest Stewardship Plan and the participation in the DCR Bird Habitat Assessment Program. Updated stewardship recommendations include: invasive plant control; harvest to expand gaps and release regeneration; cut un-merchantable stems overtopping oak regeneration; plant oak seedlings; add stone to road between north fields to reduce mud and protect water quality. The abovementioned recommendations will be funded through the MA Municipal Stewardship Grant.

Additionally, a bird habitat assessment will be funded through a DCR grant. The assessment will evaluate existing and potential habitat for a selection of birds. The Bird Habitat Assessment will be conducted in concert with the updated Forest Stewardship Plan. As part of the bird habitat assessment, Mass Audubon wants to pile the slash so it will dry up and last 10-15 years, as it will be good for birds. Mosher inquired whether the piles will be problematic for forest fires. Fish responded, there will be breaks between the piles, so if there was a fire, it would not spread.

Fish explained he wants to make sure native plants dominate the property, specifically for insects and birds. The stewardship plan calls for invasive plant removal, which is mainly found along the farm field edges. Oak trees are important to re-generate, so oak seedlings will be planted. Also, it is recommended that the Commission consider brush hogging the field to the south-west portion of the property every 5-6 years to keep it brushy only. Pollock suggested contacting the Town DPW to perform the brush hogging. Fish suggested “keep dogs leashed” signs be installed along the trail section that crosses onto the adjacent farmer’s property.

The Commission reviewed the landowner goals. Mosher signed the updated forest stewardship plan and forest cutting plan.

- **Leyden Woods Redevelopment Project: Tree Trimming & Removal:** The applicant for Leyden Woods submitted correspondence stating that there are some issues with overgrown trees and a couple trees that have died, fallen, and are leaning precariously onto other trees. Many of the overgrown trees are beginning to grow into the roofs of some of the buildings. It’s



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also going to be a continuous problem and they would like to get a tree trimmer in before we begin construction of the new buildings in other courts. According to the site plan, the 15 trees in question are within the 100-ft buffer zone, Pollock conducted a site walk with the applicants on October 26th. According to the site walk, 12 trees will be pruned, and 3 dead trees will be removed. Pollock observed trees close proximity to units and applicants concerns.

MOTION

Moved by Griffin, seconded by Miller, and voted 4-0 to administratively approve the tree trimming and removal as stated in the October 10, 2016 email correspondence from Hilde Karpawich of Stantec with the following conditions:

- 1) **If any trees being trimmed are damaged or destabilized to such an extent that its survival is compromised then the tree(s) may be removed and shall be replaced in kind of the pre-existing tree(s). Maintenance of the tree(s) shall be required to assure health and growth through two growing seasons. If the tree(s) dies and/or is damaged, a tree replacement and maintenance for two additional growing season shall be required.**
 - 2) **All tree disposal shall occur off-site.**
- **Existing A-127/B-128 Electric Transmission, New England Power Company (DEP #168-0278): Request for Certificate of Compliance:** On behalf of New England Power Company (NEP) d/b/a National Grid, TRC Environmental Corporation (TRC) submitted a Request for a Certificate of Compliance (CoC). Work authorized under the Order of Conditions and amended OOC for the Project is complete which entailed the replacement of 2 lattice towers with modern two-pole steel structures. Structure 143 required approximately 72 square feet of permanent BVW alteration, and Structure 161A required approximately 76 square feet of permanent BVW alteration and 5.6 cubic yards of net fill. Both structures also required temporary swamp mats to be placed within wetlands to establish access and work areas. TRC conducted environmental inspections during construction to ensure compliance with permit conditions and appropriate BMPs. Following completion of the Project, TRC inspected BVWs and buffer areas in work areas, and recorded the re-establishment of vegetative growth. During a site visit on September 26, 2015, TRC confirmed that temporarily disturbed work areas surrounding the poles and temporary access areas had been restored to pre-construction contours and permanently stabilized with uniform vegetative cover. TRC submitted pre- and post-construction photographs documenting the site conditions as required in the OOC and amended OOC. To compensate for permanent wetland loss, wetland replication was implemented at 2 locations proximate to the structure replacements.

Structure 143 Mitigation: The replacement of Structure 143 required approximately 72 square feet of net fill material to be placed within Wetland GR-4. To compensate for this loss of wetland area, NEP replicated a wetland area on the east side of Wetland GR-4 on the south side of an existing access road in accordance with the approved wetland replication plan for this location. The replication work was completed in fall 2013. At a hearing on February 23, 2016,



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the GCC agreed that the mitigation requirements at Structure 143 have been met as the area exhibited at least 75% cover of wetland vegetation after 2 growing seasons.

Structure 161A Mitigation: The replacement of Structure 161A required approximately 76 square feet and 5.6 cubic yards of net fill material to be placed within Wetland GR-11. To compensate for this loss of water storage function, NEP replicated a wetland area on the east side of Wetland GR-11 northeast of the existing Structure 161A and on the south side of an existing access road in accordance with the approved wetland replication plan for this location. The replication work was completed in spring 2015. In addition to application of a wetland seed mix as stipulated in the replication plan, hard-stem bulrush (*Schoenoplectus acutus*, OBL) and pickerelweed (*Pontederia cordata*, OBL) plugs were planted in the replication area. During the first annual monitoring event during the late summer of 2015, the wetland replication area at Structure 161A was dominated primarily by bearded beggarticks (*Bidens aristosa*, FACW), which was also observed during the most recent monitoring event on October 3, 2016. It should also be noted that more speckled alder (*Alnus incana*, FACW) was observed to be populating the edges of the replication area since last year. None of the hard-stem bulrush or pickerelweed plugs survived from the previous year. Photos depicting the Structure 161A wetland replication area are provided in Attachment D. The following identifies the species observed during the recent monitoring event, their wetland indicator status, and absolute percent coverage. Dominant species according to the 50/20 rule are identified in bold.

Shrub stratum

- **Speckled alder** – 5%

Herb stratum

- **Bearded beggarticks** – 25%
- **Lamp rush** (*Juncus effusus*, OBL) – 15%
- **Allegheny monkeyflower** (*Mimulus ringens*, OBL) – 10%
- **Shallow sedge** (*Carex lurida*, OBL) – 10%
- **Common boneset** (*Eupatorium perfoliatum*, FACW) – 10%
- Cattail (*Typha* sp., OBL) – 5%
- New England aster (*Symphyotrichum novae-angliae*, FACW) – 5%
- Lance-leaf goldenrod (*Euthamia graminifolia*, FAC) – 5%
- Velvetgrass (*Holcus lanatus*, FACU) – 5%
- Sensitive fern (*Onoclea sensibilis*, FACW) – 1%

Based on these results, of the 96% vegetative coverage, 91% are wetland species, all of which are native. Therefore, the replication area has met the threshold of 75% cover of wetland vegetation after 2 growing seasons. Wetland hydrology indicators observed at the Structure 161A wetland replication area included soils saturated to the surface and water table at approximately 9 inches. This is evidence of considerable wetland hydrology considering the region is in a drought, and the time of the monitoring occurred at the end of the summer when wetlands are typically the driest. Hydric soils were not observed during the 2015 monitoring



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session but were observed during the 2016 monitoring session. Soils consisted of a 10YR 4/4 matrix color with a sand texture to 6 inches, below which was a 10YR 5/1 matrix color with a fine sandy loam texture and 10YR 5/6 redoximorphic features occurring as concentrations in the matrix to a depth of at least 14 inches, meeting the criteria for Depleted Matrix (F3). TRC respectfully requests that the Commission issue a CoC for the Project as all temporary impact areas have fully re-vegetated and the wetland replication monitoring requirements have been met.

MOTION Moved by Griffin, seconded by Miller, and voted 4-0 to issue a Certificate of Compliance for (DEP #168-0278)

Enforcement Updates/Possible Violations:

Project Monitoring:

- **142 Mohawk Trail, LLC, 142 Mohawk Trail (DEP #168-0301):** Commission members inspected conditions at the projects and noticed debris within the riverbed and a potential erosion issue forming at the western edge of the gabion wall, adjacent to the parking lot. The applicant was informed of the issues. The applicant put more soil down, tapped it down and seeded it in order to stop the erosion issue. The applicant removed the trash from the riverbed. The Commission will revisit the project site conditions in the spring when the applicant re-submits a Request for a Certificate of Compliance.

Correspondence:

Site Visit Scheduling:

- 166 South Shelburne Road (Map R40, Lot 12) –TBD

Next Meeting:

7:00 PM on Tuesday, December 13, 2016, at the Greenfield Department of Planning and Development; 114 Main Street

Adjournment:

MOTION: Moved by Griffin, seconded by Miller, no further discussion and voted 4-0-0 to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Maureen Pollock
Assistant Planner & Conservation Agent

Timothy Mosher
Chair