

# CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Town of GREENFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS  
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**GREENFIELD CONSERVATION COMMISSION**  
**Minutes of May 8, 2012**  
**7:00 p.m. Greenfield Planning Department**  
**114 Main Street**

The meeting was called to order by chair, Alex Haro at 7:03p.m. with the following members:

- PRESENT:** Alex Haro, Chair  
Timothy Mosher, Vice-Chair  
Dee Letourneau  
Thomas DeHoyos  
Steve Walk
- ABSENT:** None
- ALSO PRESENT:** Laura DiNardo, Conservation Agent.

Approval of Minutes: Approval of Meeting Minutes from March 27, 2012 and April 10, 2012.

DeHoyos & Letourneau were absent during the March 27, 2012 meeting.

Walk and DeHoyos were absent during the April 10, 2012 meeting.

**MOTION:** Moved by Mosher, seconded by Walk, and voted 3-0, with two abstentions, to approve the minutes from March 27, 2012 with one change on page three.

**MOTION:** Moved by Mosher, seconded by Letourneau, and voted 3-0, with two abstentions, to approve the minutes from April 10, 2012.

Public Meetings/Hearings:

7:00 p.m. Michael and Sherri-Lee Williams – Public Hearing to review a Request for Determination of Applicability for property located at 624 Leyden Road (Map R30, Parcel 13C), for home improvements (shed and deck construction).

7:05PM Rick, Contractor; Sherri-Lee and Michael Williams, homeowners.

Site visit to property May 4<sup>th</sup> @ 3:45PM (Haro, Walk, Michael and Sherri-Lee Williams, and DiNardo present).

Williams explained the project. They were in the process of building a shed when the building inspector, Rick Germano, contacted them to submit a building permit application immediately. The shed is already built and in place, it just needs to be sided. They submitted the deck application approximately two days after the shed application; no work has been done for the deck at this time. Applicant clarified that the new shed was a replacement; the footprint of the new shed is around 16 feet larger than previous shed. They were contacted by DiNardo regarding both permit applications and notified of the Commissions involvement.

Haro explained concerns from the site visit: (1) trees were removed from bank and wetland area. (2) Platform for snowmobiles was installed next to new shed. (3) Raspberries/blueberries were planted on bank. (4) Brush piles/wood piles stored in wetland area. Haro explained what the role of the Commission is, what the 'Buffer Zone' is, what constitutes a violation, and how wetland boundaries are determined. Since the property has not been delineated, the Commission is basing information off the USGS maps that DiNardo presented from the GIS database, the site visit on May 4<sup>th</sup>, and the pictures Williams submitted with the RDA.

Walk suggested we think about the shed portion of the project as if it has not already been done; what would the Commission had asked be done differently. Maybe they would have had them build it a few feet away from the floodplain/wetland area but it is a minor violation.

Mosher expressed concern about the building permit application; did it mention wetlands. DiNardo explained that the applicant has not received the building permit because of the Conservation issues. DiNardo has been in communication with Rick Germano and he is aware the Williams were filing with Commission and were scheduled for the May 8<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Walk recommended that the homeowner contact the Commission prior to planting on the bank or in the resource area to ensure an invasive species is not planted in a MA wetland.

The Commission explained the issue with the removal of the trees and the planting of new species. The Commission has a list of recommended native species to be planted in wetland areas. DiNardo explained that a certain amount of wood is allowed to be cut without our permission for the homeowner's personal use (Per WPA). Applicant said around ten trees were cut by hand, three trees were cut in the resource area. The commission discussed the brush and woodpiles in resource area and that they should be removed by hand.

Williams stated they were planning to plant some species on the bank or in the wetland if required to do so. They were unaware of the building restraints but are willing to work with the Commission to remediate. When they realized there was a violation they stopped all work.

DeHoyos asked about the snowmobile platform to ensure they weren't expanding.

DeHoyos asked about the shed, whether it would have a gutter or not to redirect the run-off.

**MOTION:** Moved by Letourneau, seconded by Walk, and voted 5-0 to make a negative Determination that the work described in the Request is within Buffer Zone, as defined by the regulations, but will not alter an Area subject to protection under the Act. Therefore, said work does not require the filing of a Notice of Intent subject to the following conditions:

1. Standard boilerplate conditions apply.
2. No disturbance/cutting shall take place within the 25-ft no disturb zone.
3. Brush, woodpiles, and debris shall be removed from the floodplain/wetland area by hand.
4. Unless requested and approved by the Commission, no cutting shall take place within the floodplain/wetland area.
5. All spoils shall be covered at the end of each workday to ensure no sediment reaches the floodplain/wetland area.
6. A gutter shall be installed on shed to redirect run-off away from floodplain/wetland area to lawn.
7. Three native trees or shrubs shall be planted in wetland area; applicant can choose from the attached "Massachusetts Recommended" list.

7:15 p.m. College Park Condo Association c/o Ted Johnson – Public Hearing to review a Request for Determination of Applicability for property located at 25 Keegan Lane (Map R26, Parcel 21), for site improvements (fence & pool shed replacement).

7:42PM Jack Goglen and Ted Johnson from the College Park Condo Association.

Site visit to property May 4<sup>th</sup> around 4PM (Johnson, DiNardo, Walk, and Haro present).

Johnson explained the project; they hope to replace the existing pool shed and fence for safety concerns.

Haro explained the site visit; project is straightforward and the existing structures are in poor condition.

Haro asked is the fence and shed would be on same footprint. Johnson stated yes.

Haro asked if they were excavating footings for shed. Goglen stated that the existing structure has no footings, they may put on concrete blocks but there will be no excavation.

Dehoyos expressed concern about drainage. Walk stated that he saw the pipe at the site visit. Goglen stated the drainage goes to the sewer.

**MOTION: Moved by Letourneau, seconded by DeHoyos, and voted 5-0 to make a negative Determination that the work described in the Request is within Buffer Zone, as defined by the regulations, but will not alter an Area subject to protection under the Act. Therefore, said work does not require the filing of a Notice of Intent subject to the following conditions:**

**1. Standard boilerplate conditions apply.**

**MOTION: Moved by Letourneau, seconded by Walk, and voted 5-0 to make a negative determination that the area and/or work described in the Request is not subject to review and approval by the Greenfield Wetlands Protection Ordinance (Ch 195).**

Ted Johnson spoke with the Commission about bank stabilization near the parking area/pool. He has heard mix reviews regarding rip-rap versus natural stabilization.

DiNardo passed around a picture of the area from summer, 2011. The Commission does not see a major problem with the bank and generally never allows riprap. The Commission understands that there might be problem areas on bank that they have not yet seen. DiNardo gave Johnson a list of local wetland consultants. This would require a Notice of Intent and they would need to see justification for the work; a consultant could give them better advice.

The Commission discussed sheet flow from parking area; this might be a problem.

Other Business:

- a. Town of Greenfield Wetland Protection Ordinance (Chapter 195) – Continued discussion and review.

DiNardo passed out an updated spreadsheet with sections that are complete, ongoing, or incomplete. The Commission discussed the 'Jurisdiction' section and made a few changes. DiNardo will update the section with changes and re-distribute for approval.

Commission should continue to review their sections, make changes, and bring them to the meetings for

approval.

Correspondence:

Commission discussed the Green River sewer repair project in progress.

Haro notified the Commission of activities at Highland Park. The Police have been contacted; a campsite with benches, fire pits, etc. has been constructed illegally.

Haro notified the Commission of a Garlic Mustard Pull event that has been coordinated at Highland Park by an unknown party. Haro was concerned they did not ask Commission or discuss with the town before implementing. Pat Serrentino is willing to work with Commission on invasive species control on private property protocol. DiNardo will look into the WPA regulations on invasive species control.

Mosher notified the Commission of MACC classes taking place in local towns.

DiNardo mentioned the Berkshire Gas NOI and request for compliance. DiNardo passed out paperwork for next meeting. DiNardo discussed the site visit. Ishwar, the representative, lives in North Carolina and is only available to meet on site a few times prior to the 22<sup>nd</sup>. He is hosting a meeting for all parties either Monday, May 21<sup>st</sup> or Tuesday, May 22<sup>nd</sup> from 1-3:30. DiNardo will update when she has more information.

DiNardo mentioned the APR inquiry from Jen Smith (Colrain Road, 14 acre farm) She will be meeting with the Commission on the 22<sup>nd</sup> to answer questions and ask for the Commissions signature. DiNardo will forward email inquiry.

Monitoring:

Enforcement Updates: DiNardo met with Karen Hirschberg (DEP), Timothy Meyer (DOT), and a few others on site to discuss the Route 2A culvert violation (April 11, 2012). At this time, DEP is still discussing remediation but would consider the Commissions suggestions as well.

Site Visits: Berkshire Gas Company/Ish Inc. will be having a meeting for all involved agencies either Monday, May 21<sup>st</sup> or Tuesday, May 22<sup>nd</sup> from 1-3:30. DiNardo will update the Commission with more details.

Next Meeting: May 22, 2012 @ 7:00PM – Department of Planning and Development Meeting Room

Adjournment:

**MOTION: Moved by Mosher, seconded by DeHoyos, and voted 5-0 to adjourn the meeting at 8:55 p.m.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Laura DiNardo  
Conservation Agent

Alex Haro  
Chair