

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Town of GREENFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS
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GREENFIELD CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Minutes of May 22, 2012
7:00 p.m. Greenfield Planning Department
114 Main Street

The meeting was called to order by chair, Alex Haro at 7:04p.m. with the following members:

PRESENT: Alex Haro, Chair
Timothy Mosher, Vice-Chair
Dee Letourneau
Thomas DeHoyos
ABSENT: Steve Walk
ALSO PRESENT: Laura DiNardo, Conservation Agent, and members of the public.

Approval of Minutes: Approval of Meeting Minutes from May 8, 2012.

Letourneau corrected one typo on page two.

MOTION: Moved by Letourneau, seconded by Mosher, and voted 4-0 to approve the minutes from May 8, 2012 with one change on page two.

Public Meetings/Hearings:

7:15 p.m. Berkshire Gas Company c/o Ishwar Murarka, Ish Inc. – Public Hearing to review a Notice of Intent for property located at Mead Street (Map 30, Parcel 5), for work pertaining to the remediation of NAPL in the Green River and impacted soils on banks by excavation and installation of a temporary pumping bypass. In addition, a containment wall will be installed along the north bank to protect from future release/contamination.

Ishwar Murarka, Ish Inc.
Jack Yablonsky, Berkshire Gas Company
Ben Stad, Project Engineer
Tim Condon, LSV of record

Condon opened hearing with an explanation of the Mass Contingency Plan (MCP) and the state requirements.

Murarka began a PowerPoint presentation for the Commission. Since the 2007 project, they have been monitoring and testing the extent of the contamination. They realized that extent was greater than anticipated while conducting work (in 2007) but were unable to excavate under the permitting they received

- 1877 Photos
- 2010 aerial photos
- Phase one system: soil mix wall and groundwater system.
 - Installation of barrier_wall: 660-feet of wall approximately 23 feet deep and approximately one-foot below grade will be installed.
 - Passive groundwater system will be installed (prevent flooding or increase in groundwater). Groundwater will still flow back into the river.
 - Should begin around July 15, 2012 if they received all permits, work will last around ten weeks. Per

Army Corps, they need to be out of the river by October 15, 2012.

- No shoreline change during this activity and all trees should remain in place. Will do some temporary restoration (grass, topsoil) and will keep silt wall in place.

Haro asked if the storage area would be lawn. Ish said yes, same area as in 2007.

DeHoyos asked how far away the storage area would be from river. Ish stated around 250 feet.

Ish stated that ~900 tons of soil would be generated for dewatering and conditioning before removal.

DeHoyos asked if they would use a containment berm. Ish stated yes and material would be covered every day.

DeHoyos asked about the cleaning area. Ish stated it was for cleaning truck tires. DeHoyos asked how far away this was from river. Ish stated around 50 feet.

Ish stated there would be two temporary frac-tanks for water collection and will be trucked out for off-site treatment

DeHoyos asked if the applicant is requesting approval for Phase I or Phase I and II. Ish stated the NOI is for both phases.

- Phase two system: pumped bypass option

- Two portadams, ~1100 ft across streambed.
- Continuous pumped system with three pipes; excavation will be done in the dry. Seven sections of excavation will take place (area seven will be excavated first then areas one through six) with contaminated soils ranging from one to ten feet deep.
- There is a small area with contaminated soil more than ten feet deep (around thirteen feet) that DEP said could be left due to difficulties at that level.
- around sixteen weeks in duration
- Around 22,000 tons of soils/sediments that are contaminated that will be going off-site. Clean soil of similar composition will be brought onsite.
- Primary pumps will be electric with a diesel back up generator.
- A detailed description of native trees/vegetation to be planted in plan. Any plants lost in the first two years will be replaced.
- Should begin around July 1, 2013.

DeHoyos asked what would happen if they found contamination deeper. Ish said there is nothing penetrated deeper than the till, which is 5-7 feet deep.

Haro asked where the storage for clean materials would be. Ish stated on the beach; they would only be storing for short periods and then back filling. If the soil is found contaminated there will be moxy trucks removing the soil for dewatering until they have enough soil to truck off-site.

Mosher asked where the water pump-sumped from the soil would go. Ish stated in the frac-tanks.

DeHoyos asked where equipment would be stored. Some will stay on the beach/river area or on Berkshire Gas property. DeHoyos asked where the equipment would be refueled. Ish stated all equipment would be refueled away from the river. DeHoyos asked how far away the equipment storage area would be. Ish stated around 100-ft from river.

Haro asked about the bathymetry map, how current is it. Ish stated they would be using a licensed surveyor to do cross-sections to get an updated picture around one month prior to work. This will be restored as similarly as possible.

Commission expressed concern about a storm event. They will constantly watch the weather and will immediately backfill any open areas. They will have enough soil onsite to backfill in an emergency and each area will be done separately; not all areas will be open at once.

Mosher asked if they were using cofferdams or portadams. Ish stated two portadams.

DeHoyos asked if there was a better way to conduct work. Ish stated this is the best way but one of the most expensive ways.

Mosher asked about the phase I wall installation; where will water and soil go. Ish stated it will go into frac-tanks and the soils will all be treated as contaminated.

Haro stated that the Commission is waiting for comments from NHESP, DEP, and Army Corps.

Comments from the Public (Haro explained process):

Jim Terrapin, steel stamp owner, expressed concern about erosion on bank but will catch up with Berkshire Gas outside of the meeting with other questions.

Chris Coloson, Museum of Our Industrial Heritage, concerned about access to site during construction. Also, there is archeology that he would like to see acknowledged/conserved. Showed the Commission the location of the archeology and it is very close to where the portadam will be located. Haro suggested this is best forwarded elsewhere, possible the town engineer or Massachusetts Historical Commission. Yablonsky stated that the portadam can easily be moved.

DeHoyos requested a copy of the Northrop Grumman Conditions issued in the 2008 Notice of Intent.

MOTION: Moved by Letourneau, seconded by Mosher, and voted 4-0 to continue the hearing until the next regularly scheduled meeting (June 12, 2012).

Other Business:

- a. Berkshire Gas Company c/o Ishwar Murarka, Ish Inc. – Request for Certificate of Compliance for property located at Mead Street (Map 30, Parcel 5). Work pertained to sediment remediation work as required by the Massachusetts Contingency Plan (MCP). DEP file # 168-0247 GRE file # 06-20.

Ishwar Murarka, Ish Inc.
Jack Yablonsky, Berkshire Gas Company
Ben Stad, Project Engineer
Tim Condon, LSV of record

Haro and Mosher attended a site visit at Berkshire Gas at 5PM, May 22, 2012. Haro explained visit.

Murarka explained that the work was now complete. Two maps were displayed of the site showing working and present conditions. Some vegetation was destroyed during the August Hurricane Irene storm event. Erosion controls have been removed. Wall and materials have been removed from streambed.

Mosher asked how many trees were planted. Murarka stated around 14 but around half were destroyed.

Mosher stated that he has no concerns at this time; anything they would like to see can be added to the new Order of Conditions.

MOTION: Moved by Mosher, seconded by Letourneau, and voted 4-0 to issue a complete Certificate of Compliance for work conducted at Mead Street (DEP 168-0247).

- b. Jen Smith, Mount Grace Land Trust – Agricultural Preservation Restriction (APR) Program inquiry for ~14 acre farm located on Colrain Road.

Jen Smith unable to attend; moved to next meeting.

- c. Request for Certificate of Compliance – Enterprise Car Rental, 136 River Street (DEP #168-0231).

Commission met with Mr. Kolstad on March 27, 2012 and April 10, 2012 to review Compliance. The Commission was waiting for a signed statement from the project engineer that the work was done in compliance with the Order of Conditions. This statement was received on May 11, 2012.

MOTION: Moved by Letourneau, seconded by DeHoyos, and voted 4-0 to issue a complete Certificate of Compliance for work conducted at 136 River Street (DEP 168-0231).

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

The Commission discussed and approved the updated version of ‘Jurisdiction’.

The Commission discussed the ‘Notice and Hearings’ section. Letourneau, with the guidance of all Commissioners, made several changes to simplify the current wording. The Commission liked wordage from Northampton’s Ordinance and used that to help with the section. DiNardo will change the wordage as request and break the section into four subsections (notification to town, notification to abutters, notice of public hearing, and issuance of permit). Updated version will be sent to Letourneau for review and then all commissioners for approval at next meeting.

Mosher and Walk should work on their sections for the next meeting (Coordination with other boards & Permits and Conditions).

Correspondence:

DiNardo received a voicemail from Peter LaBarbera regarding the Lenny Weeks pond violation. He will be available for a site visit sometime next week (weekending June 2, 2012). Haro suggested that LaBarbera submit an application stating all remedial work before they visit the site. DiNardo will contact LaBarbera to update him.

DiNardo notified the Commission of an inquiry at 427 Adams Road; homeowners are concerned about the recent increase in the ground water table. There could be beavers causing the issue or this could be the natural process of the wetland in the back of their property. Haro stated that the homeowner could take photos and present them to the Commission or hire a wetland consultant to look at the issue.

Monitoring:

Enforcement Updates: DiNardo updated the Commission that she received several photos of Leyden Road violations. Letters will be sent out via certified mailing to the appropriate address on May 23, 2012.

DiNardo got an email about a homeowner excavating/filling the wetland area in his back yard. DiNardo will visit the site on May 23rd and send a letter to the homeowner.

DiNardo received information from the Environmental Police of a wetland violation on Laurel Street. The property is not listed as a designation MA wetland per GIS so first the Commission will need to verify it is actually a wetland (documentation of species) before enforcement.

Site Visits: None at this time.

Next Meeting: June 12, 2012

Adjournment:

MOTION: Moved by Mosher, seconded by DeHoyos, and voted 5-0 to adjourn the meeting at 9:11 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Laura DiNardo
Conservation Agent

Alex Haro
Chair