

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Town of GREENFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS
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GREENFIELD CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Minutes of June 12, 2012
7:00 p.m. Greenfield Planning Department
114 Main Street

The meeting was called to order by chair, Alex Haro at 7:05p.m. with the following members:

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

Approval of Minutes: Approval of Meeting Minutes from May 22, 2012.

Haro corrected one typo on page two.

MOTION: Moved by Letourneau, seconded by Mosher, and voted 3-0, with one abstention, to approve the minutes from May 22, 2012 with one change on page two.

Public Meetings/Hearings:

7:00 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.

DiNardo explained that Berkshire Gas decided to postpone the meeting. After the inter-agency meeting on June 6, 2012 @ 1 PM in Springfield, MA at the DEP Western Office, the applicant decided to amend the Notice of Intent and split phase one and phase two into different applications. Berkshire Gas hopes to receive approval for phase one at the next meeting. DiNardo will circulate additional plans, if needed, before the next meeting.

MOTION: Moved by Letourneau, seconded by Mosher, and voted 4-0 to continue the hearing until the next regularly scheduled meeting (June 26, 2012).

Other Business:

- a. 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 first meeting in July (July 10, 2012).

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

Mosher distributed 'Coordination with Other Boards'. The Commission the following changes: (1)

'paperwork' changed to 'application and associated materials', (2) adding the Health Dept. to 'other boards', (3) 'once paperwork is received' changed to 'Once finalized materials are received'. The Commission approved the section with the three changes.

Commission reviewed 'Notice and Hearings'. The Commission made the following changes: (1) change 'newspaper' to 'local newspaper' and remove 'in the City'; (2) Change 'the Commission shall have authority to continue the hearing to a specific.....' to 'authority to continue the hearing, with the applicants approval, to a specific...'; (3) change 'homeowner' to 'property owner'; (4) Insert 'the' second line in B; (5) abbreviate wetlands permits. The Commission approved the section with the five changes.

Commission reviewed 'Burden of Proof'. The Commission made the following changes: (1) change 'wetland' to 'jurisdictional'; (2) remove the word 'negative'. The Commission approved the section with the two changes.

Next meeting:

Definitions (TD)

Permits and Conditions (AH)

Enforcement (TM)

Security (DL).

Correspondence:

Heather Cunningham spoke with the Commission regarding a potential project at Highland Park. She is a recent graduate of GCC and is now taking classes at Umass in Amherst and is involved with a 501C non-profit. The group's goal is to section the Connecticut River Watershed into management area and conduct invasive species analysis/removal. They are working on their 5th project and chose Highland Park as the location. Heather would like to work with the Commission on behalf of the group to conduct evaluation of the ~29 acre parcel and implement a management plan to remove and replace invasive species.

Haro asked Heather if she is affiliated with a Frank Mroz. Haro explained the Mr. Mroz wanted to conduct a garlic mustard pull at Highland Park about one month ago but was not willing to work with the Commission. Haro explained the issue to the Mayor after the Mayor was contacted by Mr. Mroz. Heather stated she did not know about this group and is not affiliated.

Haro asked if all work was on a volunteer basis. Heather stated that they are looking and applying for grants. Haro asked if they were looking to conduct an assessment of the entire parcel or just around Highland Pond. Heather stated that they are looking at the ~29 acre parcel, not just the pond.

Haro explained Highland Park, the wetland issues, management, and the overall jurisdiction of the Commission. The Commission requested a proposed scope of work with as much detail as possible (where, when, what plants, methods, etc).

DiNardo stated she would discuss the potential project with Misty-Anne at NHESP to see what guidelines/permits they require for this kind of work in a PRIHAB designated area.

Haro asked why this group chose Highland Park. Heather explained that they were looking for an area that was heavily used so people would become interested and educated on the process/project.

The Commission expressed interest and support in the project and encouraged Heather to continue working with them. Heather will attend the next meeting to discuss in more detail.

Haro went into more detail on the Highland Park/Mroz situation. Eric Twarog was contacted by the Mayor who was looking for detail on why the Commission stated the garlic mustard pull was prohibited. DiNardo briefly explained to Eric and the Mayor what she knew about the situation. Haro wrote the mayor an email explaining the events, including Mr. Mroz's lack of interest in working with the Commission.

Walk spoke with the Commission regarding his resignation; June 12, 2012 will be his last meeting as a fulltime member but he has requested to be on the associate list to help make quorum if needed. Haro said a few words about his sixteen years of much appreciated service. DiNardo will take necessary steps to move Walk from the members list and onto the associate member list.

Monitoring:

Enforcement Updates: DiNardo updated the Commission on the 20 Laurel violation. Ofc. Kinner, MA Environmental Police, filled out an incident report, took pictures, and conducted a site visit. Pictures are on a SD card and still need to be printed. DiNardo will continue working with Mark Snow, Inspector of Buildings and the Environmental Police. The Commission advised that we contact the fairgrounds directly, get permission to access the property, and document wetland species on site. The Commission will continue the discussion at the next meeting

Site Visits: None at this time.

Next Meeting: June 12, 2012

Adjournment:

MOTION: Moved by Walk, seconded by Mosher, and voted 4-0 to adjourn the meeting at 8:25 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Laura DiNardo
Conservation Agent

Alex Haro
Chair