

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Town of GREENFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS
14 Court Square, Greenfield MA 01301

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GREENFIELD CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Minutes of Tuesday March 12, 2013
7:00 p.m. Greenfield Department of Planning and Development
114 Main Street

The meeting was called to order by chair, Alex Haro at 7:07 p.m. with the following members:

PRESENT: Alex Haro, Chair
Timothy Mosher, Vice-Chair
Dee Letourneau
John Blasiak
Angela Panaccione, Agent

ABSENT: Thomas DeHoyos

Approval of Minutes: Approval of Meeting Minutes from February 12, 2013.

MOTION: Moved by Blasiak, seconded by Mosher, no further discussion and voted 4-0-0 to approve the minutes from February 12, 2013 as corrected.

Public Meetings/Hearings:

7:10 PM - Alex Haro Re-Open Continued NOI hearing (DEP # 168-0256): 574 Bernardston Road; Stoneleigh Burnham School

The NOI submitted by SVE Associates c/o Leslie Brown representing the Stoneleigh-Burnham School, for property located at 574 Bernardston Road (Map R15, Parcel 2), is for work pertaining to four (4) separate projects: 1) stream maintenance dredging operation 2) equestrian improvements, 3) pond maintenance and new fore bay construction and 4) construction of a new outside arena.

Approved Documents & Plans:

1. Revised Notice of Intent: Stoneleigh Burnham School Drainage and Equestrian Improvements, prepared by SVE Associates, dated 2/12/2013
2. Site Plan (Pg. 1-7), prepared by SVE Associates, dated 1/7/2013
3. Wildlife Habitat Evaluation, Stoneleigh-Burnham School, Greenfield, prepared by Wendell Wetland Services, dated 8/2012
4. Technical Memorandum (Stormwater Report), prepared by Tony Wonseski, SVE Associates, dated 1/8/2013
5. Limited Project Description & Narrative of Resource Area Impacts, prepared by Wendell Wetland Services, dated 2/12/2013

Tony Wonseski requested a continuance of the hearing for 1 month. The applicant is still working of the 401 WQC, which could result in project modifications or variations in resource area impacts.

MOTION: Moved by Mosher, seconded by Letourneau, no further discussion and voted 4-0-0 to continue the hearing until 7:00 PM on Tuesday April 9, 2013

Enforcement Updates:

Colrain Street: Several unauthorized structures are present along the perennial stream and a pen and shed is located within the riverfront zone, NHESP priority habitat and the flood plain. The owner is Elena Pirozhkov and the property is assessors map R26 4 0. The Commission will refrain from enforcement action until it can be determined if the land is in “Agricultural Use”. Agent will investigate further and the Commission will monitor the site in the Spring for farming activities.

Exxon Mobile – 142 Mohawk Trail: In response to a potential violation letter sent to ExxonMobil, Lehigh Gas, and Faist Engineering, Attorney Urs Furrer, retained by both ExxonMobil and Lehigh Gas, stated the company will make the necessary stream bank repairs as soon as possible. They are in the process of getting bids on the project. Mr. Furrer did state a representative would be conducting a site visit soon and would contact the commission to coordinate.

Letourneau recommended the Commission send a response back setting a deadline of May 1, 2013 for the schedule and sequence of the proposed work. The ideal time for stream bank restoration, especially when using sheet metal, is in the summer. The letter should also reflect the Commission desires to see the work completed by the end of this summer (2013) or further enforcement action will occur.

Snow Disposal Violation: The Commission received several complaints about improper snow disposal at various locations in Town. Due to the numerous “snow disposal violation” complaints, the Agent developed an informational pamphlet summarizing the *DEP Snow Disposal Guidance* (2008). A complaint about Davenport’s Trucking on Woodard Road was from the Mayor’s office. The Agent investigated the complaint and the snow did not appear to be plowed into the river; it is just a matter of circumstance due to the amount of snow. Snow is doing what snow does, melting and drifting on its own accord down the bank. The agent also spoke with Davenport Personnel, informed them of the complaint and gave them a copy of the pamphlet.

Other Business:

Town of Greenfield Wetland Protection Ordinance (Chapter 195): The commissioners discussed and revised the draft chapter 195 ordinance. The commissioners also discussed filing fees for permit applications. The Agent will develop a spreadsheet comparing the filing fees of surrounding towns for the next meeting.

DEP Proposed Regulatory Reform: The Agent informed the Commission DEP gave notice of its intent to revise the regulations under the Wetlands Protection Act. The Wetlands Protection regulations will include a new Minor Activity Exemption for work in the Buffer Zone; a new Limited Project category for Renewable Energy Project Access; and clarifications to encourage maintenance of Stormwater Management Structures, and clarify the regulatory status of areas created by these

structures. A new permitting mechanism is created for Ecological Restoration Projects to unify the applicable standards and speed up permitting. A new permitting category is proposed for water dependent test or “pilot” projects to allow testing of new technologies. A consolidated application and permitting process is proposed for projects requiring multiple permits, such as a c.91 license, a Wetlands Order of Conditions and / or a Water Quality Certification. Additional changes will streamline abutter notification requirements; allow improvement dredging, and clarify when a detailed wildlife habitat evaluation is required for work in Wetlands Resource Areas. The Water Quality Certification regulations are changed to eliminate the need for variances on projects related to public purposes. Other proposed changes include modifications to some definitions, and revisions made to improve, clarify and conform the regulations to recent directives in administrative appeal decisions.

The Agent will email the Commission the Public Notice: Wetland/Waterway/Water Quality Regulations

Next Meeting: 7 PM on Tuesday, March 26, 2013, at the Greenfield Department of Planning and Development; 114 Main Street. (Angela bring projector)

Adjournment:

MOTION: Moved by Letourneau, seconded by Mosher, no further discussion and voted 4-0-0 to adjourn the meeting at 8:08 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Angela Panaccione
Conservation Commission Agent

Alex Haro
Chair