



William F. Martin
Mayor

City known as the Town of
GREENFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Town Hall • 14 Court Square • Greenfield, MA 01301
Phone 413-772-1551 • Fax 413-772-1309
Conservation@greenfield-ma.gov • www.greenfield-ma.gov

Members:

Blasiak, John (2016)
DeHoyos, Thomas (2016)
Haro, Alex (2014)
Letourneau, Dee (2014)
Mosher, Timothy (2015)

GREENFIELD CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Minutes of Thursday May 29, 2014

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

The meeting was called to order by chair, Alex Haro at 7:00 p.m. with the following members:

PRESENT: Alex Haro, Chair
Thomas DeHoyos (*Arrived at 7:40PM)
Dee Letourneau
John Blasiak

ALSO PRESENT: Tom Currier, MassDOT
Simon Hildt, Stantec
Michael McDonough, VHB
Lisa Standley, VHB
Jake Toomey, Green River Festival
Jon Widdison, MassDOT
Dan McCarthy
Monica McCarthy
Maureen Pollock, Assistant Planner & Conservation Agent

ABSENT: Tim Mosher, Vice-chair

Approval of Minutes:

Approval of Meeting Minutes from May 13, 2014.

MOTION: Moved by Blasiak, seconded by Letourneau, no further discussion and voted 3-0-0 to accept the minutes from May 13, 2014, as amended.

Public Meetings/Hearings:

7:10 Cont. NOI– Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT): Notice of Intent submitted by MassDOT, for property located at Rt.2A/Shelburne Road/River Street Intersection, for work pertaining to signal equipment updates; reconfiguration of travel and turn lanes; and construction of ADA compliant sidewalks, crosswalks, and ramps at the intersection.

Tom Currier, MassDOT and Simon Hildt, Stantec were present to explain the revised plans and to



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provide more details. The type of erosion and sediment control proposed for the project is straw bales with silt fencing. Biodegradable erosion control netting (e.g. jute) will be installed in areas where, following construction, disturbed soils are present on slopes. Following construction, disturbed soils will be seeded with an erosion control seed mix.

The retaining wall along Shelburne Road will be a cemented stone masonry wall with concrete footing. The footings will be approximately 3 feet wide. This is a standard MassDOT item and will have a cement concrete capstone. The wall will be embedded at a minimum of one-foot.

All soil disturbing activities (e.g. excavation and grading) adjacent to the Green River will occur within the limits of the erosion and sediment control barrier. Soil will be managed in a way that prevents migration of sediment into adjacent wetlands. If the work area does not provide sufficient space for the stockpiling of excavated materials, said materials will be loaded and hauled to an appropriate stockpile location and enclosed with an erosion and sediment control barrier as necessary until they are reused at the site or properly stabilized as necessary.

Excavation and grading along Shelburne Road will entail the removal of vegetation within the work area. Species that will be removed consist mainly of upland grasses and oriental bittersweet. Excavated material from the locations where oriental bittersweet is located will be reused onsite to prevent the spread of this invasive species. That area will be seeded with an erosion control mix and 10 American Hazelnut, *Corylus americana* and 20 Lowbush Blueberry, *Vaccinium angustifolium* will be planted.

Pollock stated the Commission has received a formal “no adverse effect” determination from NHESP. MassDEP has issued a File Notification Number for the project: DEP# 168-0297.

MOTION: Moved by Blasiak, seconded by Letourneau, no further discussion and voted 3-0-0 to close the public hearing.

MOTION: Moved by Blasiak, seconded by Letourneau, no further discussion and voted 3-0-0 to approve the NOI as revised and issue an Order of Conditions for DEP # 168-0297 with conditions

7:25 Cont. RDA – Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA): Request for Determination of Applicability submitted by the MBTA, for property located at 12 Olive Street (Assessors Map 29 Lot 36A), to determine whether the area and work is subject to the Wetlands Protection Act and the Town of Greenfield Wetlands Protection Ordinance. Proposed work pertains to the construction of the Greenfield Train Station.

Michael McDonough and Lisa Standley, representatives to the applicant (MBTA) were present to explain the proposed RDA for work associated with the proposed construction of the Greenfield Station for the Knowledge Corridor – Restore Vermonter Rail Project. No areas within or near the



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project area were found to contain wetland indicator plants, saturated or inundated conditions, or other indicators of hydrology. The site is not within mapped floodplain, and is more than 200 feet from any perennial stream. No Bordering Vegetated Wetland or Bank exists on or within 100 feet of the project area. The applicant requests that the Commission issue a negative Determination of Applicability with respect to the proposed site and work described in this RDA.

Pollock stated according to MassGIS and based on observations during a May 13, 2014 site visit of the project area, there are no jurisdictional wetland resources within or near the project area.

MOTION: Moved by Blasiak, seconded by Letourneau, no further discussion and voted 3-0-0 to close the public meeting.

MOTION: Moved by Blasiak, seconded by Letourneau, no further discussion and voted 3-0-0 to make a negative determination, box 1, the area described in the Request in not an area subject under the Act or the Buffer Zone; box 4, the work described in the Request is not within an Area subject to protection under the Act (including the Buffer Zone). Therefore, said work does not require the filing of a Notice of Intent, unless and until said work alters an Area subject to protection under the Act.

Other Business:

Green River Festival: Overflow Parking at the Wedgewood Gardens site – Jake Toomey was present to explain the proposed activities at Wedgewood Gardens for the July 12-13, 2014 Green River Festival. Toomey submitted a written narrative with proposed plan. For the last four years, the Green River Festival has used the Wedgewood lot as the primary parking location for festival attendees. This year, festival organizers plan to use the GCC parking lots as the primary parking. Once the GCC parking lots are full, then overflow parking will be offered at the Wedgewood Gardens site.

The primary reason for designating the GCC parking lots as the primary location for parking is for public safety. It has been the Green River Festival organizers' concern that if a severe weather event was to happen during the festival, the GCC buildings would not be large enough to hold the thousands of attendees. With the majority of parking on campus, attendees could seek shelter in their vehicles and have a quicker and more efficient method of evacuation.

As in previous years, organizers' goals are to park vehicles at the Wedgewood Garden site safely, efficiently, and with minimal footprint on the field. This year, cars will be double parked in rows perpendicular to the paved road into Wedgewood Gardens. The following areas will be posted with signage, including: "No Parking" areas; Rules at Wedgewood Gardens; Rules at the Festival; Shuttle stops (there will be two); Parking areas to help locate attendee vehicles upon return; exits; and directions to I-91. Experienced and trained parking attendants will direct vehicles and answer



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questions. Parking attendants will be wearing reflective vests and traffic flashlights. An onsite Supervisor will oversee the parking attendants and the ongoing operation. There will be professionally trained and licensed public transit drivers operating FRTA approved buses to safely shuttle attendees to and from Wedgewood Gardens and GCC. There will be coordination with the Greenfield Police Department and GCC Security for traffic mitigation and dedicated bus lanes. With direct communication to shuttle drivers and the parking supervisors, GCC Dispatch will be able to call for emergency services on a bus or at Wedgewood Gardens in the event of an emergency. There will be trash receptacles at each shuttle stop at Wedgewood Gardens. There will be 3 portable bathrooms on-site. There will be two generator lights sets to illuminate the field at night. The generator light sets will not be fueled on-site. Unauthorized parking areas will be marked off with cones, signs, and wooden barriers. On Monday, July 14, 2014 organizers will clean up all debris from the site.

MOTION: Moved by Letourneau, seconded by Blasiak, no further discussion and voted 3-0-0 to approve the activities in the submitted memo and plan dated May 29, 2014 for the purposes of the 2014 Green River Festival only.

Haro stated Commission member, Thomas DeHoyos arrived at 7:40 PM.

Request for Partial Certificate of Compliance: 261 Mohawk Trail (Assessor's Map R25, Lot 31) DEP #168-0270 – Pollock conducted a site visit on May 28, 2014 and observed vegetation within the disturbed areas has not been planted yet and five of five new planted Eastern Redbuds are dead. Pollock took photographs for public record. Haro stated the Commission will consider approving the partial certificate of compliance, but in the meantime, the applicant should plant within the disturbed areas. Pollock will draft a letter to send to the applicant.

MassDOT: Greenfield Rotary Replacement Plantings – Jon Widdison, MassDOT was present to further discuss the replacement plantings. Widdison stated MassDOT would like to replace the plants that were erroneously mowed over and to plant additional trees around the rotary. Mowing is restricted to the outside ring, and is not allowed in the delineated wetland.

Haro stated the wetland has been mowed. MassDOT needs to flag the wetland from the 25-foot No Disturb Zone line annually, to prevent future mowing.

DeHoyos stated MassDOT needs to place permanent signage that states “do not mow in wetlands.”

Haro stated MassDOT needs to meet with the maintenance crew annually to discuss which areas shall not be mowed

Haro stated the installation of the cameras is not that high. Haro inquired if the cameras were installed higher, would that have prevented the removal of the trees



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Widdison responded maybe, but he really cannot say.

Widdison stated MassDOT wants to replace the trees that were mowed over and plant some additional trees around the rotary.

Blasiak stated he would like to see Common Winterberry, *Ilex verticillata* and Sweet Pepperbush, *Clethra alnifolia* planted. In the event the plants are mowed over again, Common Winterberry and Sweet Pepperbush will be able to rejuvenate.

Haro stated he would recommend the height of all new trees be at a minimum of 3-feet tall at time of planting, and each new plant should be well marked.

Widdison stated new plantings will be planted at the bottom of the slope.

Pollock stated prior to planting, MassDOT needs to submit a complete planting list and a planting plan showing the location of all new plants; permanent signage stating “no mowing in wetland;” and wetland locations present at the rotary.

Greenfield Community College: Beavers issues – Pollock will send literature to the GCC Facilities Director regarding ways to manage beaver activity

Draft Chapter 195, Greenfield Wetlands Ordinance – The Town Council passed the Wetlands Ordinance on May 21, 2014. Pollock will post the new Ordinance on the Commission webpage and will distribute copies to the Commission members.

MassDEP Workshop on Solar Farms and the Wetlands Protection Act: This workshop designed for Conservation Commissions will be held on June 3, 2014 from 7:00 to 9:00PM in the Department of Planning & Development Office, located at 114 Main Street, Greenfield.

Project Monitoring:

The Berkshire Gas Company c/o Ishwar Murarka, Ish Inc., Phase II of the Remediation of Sediment/Soils in the Green River, Meade Street (DEP # 168-0290): Pollock conducted a site visit on May 19, 2014. Pollock took photographs of the site for record. Pollock stated there is evidence that an erosion channel is forming along the east bank of the Green River, near the Museum of Our Industrial Heritage. Per Standard Conditions 1, 13, 14 and 18 of the issued Order of Conditions, erosion problems that occur at the site shall be corrected. Pollock contacted Ishwar Murarka to inform him to correct this erosion problem as soon as possible and notify the Commission once it has been corrected. Murarka stated he will correct the problem immediately, and would like to conduct a site visit with Pollock and the Commission in mid June. Pollock inquired when he plans to replace the American Sycamore, *Platanus occidentalis* that was



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removed on the east bank of the Green River. Murarka responded he will plant a mature sized American Sycamore by mid June.

Enforcement Updates/Possible Violations:

85 Shelburne Road (Assessor's Map 61, Lot 15): Pollock updated the Commission regarding a possible violation at 85 Shelburne Road. Based upon a site visit on the abutting town-owned property conducted on May 28, 2014 by Pollock, clearing of vegetation and disturbance of soil has occurred within Riverfront Area, Bordering Land Subject to Flooding, Bordering Vegetated Wetlands, 25-foot No Disturb Zone, and NHESP Priority and Estimated Habitats without having first obtained an Order of Conditions from the Commission. Pollock requested the property owners to attend the Commission meeting to further discuss the possible violation. Dan and Monica McCarthy were present to explain the recent activities. McCarthy's son who now resides at 85 Shelburne Road has been using four-wheelers in back portions of the property.

McCarthy stated he was unaware that he these activities would be a problem on his property.

Haro stated clearing of vegetation and disturbance of soils within a wetland resource area is not permissible, because it will negatively impact the wetland resources.

McCarthy stated he will remove all wood pallets, the fire pit, and other materials within the resource areas. McCarthy stated he will tell his son and friends to stop four-wheeling within the resource areas.

McCarthy stated he intends to rebuild his house on the existing house footprint at the property in mention.

Haro stated any work outside of the existing house footprint that will remove, fill, dredge, or alter a wetland resource area, will be subject to Commission and MassDEP approval, as well as NHESP approval. Examples include excavation, stockpiling of soil, and removal of vegetation.

Correspondence:

Site Visit Scheduling:

Next Meeting:

7:00 PM on Tuesday, June 17 2014, at the Greenfield Department of Planning and Development;



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Adjournment:

MOTION: Moved by DeHoyos, seconded by Letourneau, no further discussion and voted 4-0-0 to adjourn the meeting at 8:46 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Maureen Pollock
Assistant Planner & Conservation Agent

Alex Haro
Chair