



William F. Martin
Mayor

City known as the Town of
GREENFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

Members:
Blasiak, John (2016)
DeHoyos, Thomas (2016)
Mosher, Timothy (2015)

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

GREENFIELD CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Minutes of Tuesday July 22, 2014

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

The meeting was called to order by Chair, John Blasiak at 7:00 p.m. with the following members:

PRESENT: John Blasiak, Chair
Timothy Mosher, Vice-chair
Thomas DeHoyos

ALSO PRESENT: Ryan Hale, TRC Environmental Corporation
Matthias Nevins
Gail Miller
James Allen
Maureen Pollock, Assistant Planner & Conservation Agent

Approval of Minutes:

Approval of Meeting Minutes from July 8, 2014.

MOTION: Moved by Mosher, seconded by DeHoyos, no further discussion and voted 3-0-0 to accept the minutes from July 8, 2014, as amended.

Public Meetings/Hearings:

7:10 Amended OOC (DEP #168-0278) - New England Power Company dba National Grid, for property identified as Assessor's Map R06, Lot 29A: Amendment to an Order of Conditions submitted by New England Power Company dba National Grid, for property identified as Assessor's Map R06, Lot 29A, for the replacement of Structure 161A within Bordering Vegetated Wetlands.

Ryan Hale of TRC Environmental Corporation, representative to Applicant was present. Hale stated his applicant needs to revise the scope of work regarding the replacement of Structure 161A west of Adams Road in Greenfield. The work will be performed as part of the A127/B128 Transmission Refurbishment/Reconductor Project, which received an Order of Conditions from the Commission on April 28, 2010. The applicant request that the Commission amend the OOC to allow the placement of temporary swamp mats within Bordering Vegetated Wetlands (BVWs) to accommodate removal of the existing structure and construction of the proposed structure.



William F. Martin
Mayor

City known as the Town of
GREENFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

Members:

Blasiak, John (2016)
DeHoyos, Thomas (2016)
Mosher, Timothy (2015)

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

The original scope of work called for reinforcement of the four existing foundations of Structure 161A, which is located within Wetland GR-11. Upon further inspection, it was determined Structure 161A would need to be completely replaced. Therefore a replacement structure is proposed approximately 20 feet to the west of the existing Structure 161A, which would also be located within Wetland GR-11. Existing Structure 161A would be removed and its foundations would be removed down to 18 inches below the ground surface. A new Structure 161A will be installed, comprised of two concrete foundations and steel poles.

New holes will be excavated for the concrete foundations, concrete foundations will be constructed and backfilled, and installation of new poles, crossarms, and permanent hardware will occur. Temporary hardware will be installed for the wire replacement/pulling operation.

Following the wire pulling operation and clipping to the new structure permanent hardware, the former Structure 161A will be removed and the area will be restored and stabilized. Wetland topsoils recovered from excavation associated with construction of replacement Structure 161A would be used to backfill above the old Structure subsurface foundations, and exposed soils would be graded to match adjacent contours, seeded with a wetland seed mix, and stabilized with straw.

The four foundations to be removed along with existing Structure 161A are approximately 24 square feet (sq. ft.) in area, and the two foundations to be constructed as part of new Structure 161A are approximately 24 sq. ft. in area. Therefore, the replacement of Structure 161A will result in no net increase or decrease of fill.

To accommodate the construction activities, approximately 9,837 square feet of temporary swamp matting was originally proposed to be installed within Wetland GR-11 to establish access and provide a temporary construction work area around the existing and new Structure 161A in Wetland GR-11. Upon further evaluation, it was determined that an additional 12,953 square feet of temporary swamp matting would be required, for a total of 22,790 square feet, to allow enough room for crane access and to lay down the existing Structure 161 so that it can be disassembled safely on the ground.

This constitutes temporary alteration, and all areas subject to swamp mat installation will be restored to preconstruction conditions. There are no Massachusetts Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program (NHESP) Priority or Estimated Habitats of Rare Species at or within the vicinity of the Project.

In situ restoration will be performed for all temporary disturbances.

DeHoyos asked how long will the work take.

Hale responded he is trying to figure that out now. The applicant hopes to start in the fall 2014.



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)
Mosher, Timothy (2015)

Blasiak asked how long the swamp mats will be laid down.

Hale responded it depends on how long National Grid can get an outage for the project area. They may be laid down for 1-2 months.

DeHoyo asked where the crane will be deconstructed.

Hale stated the crane will be placed onto of the proposed swamp mat. The original plan was to deconstruct Structure 161A from top down, but the applicant has realized that it won't work, and so the applicant is requesting to be able to deconstruct the structure while it is laid down.

Mosher asked what the width of the structure base is.

Hale responded he did not know.

Mosher asked what type of crane is being proposed.

Hale responded he did not know.

Mosher asked if the swamp mat will be lied down 1-2 months after the concrete footings are placed.

Mosher asked how deep the water is where the swamp mat will be laid.

Hale responded he did not know.

Mosher stated he would like to know whether one layer of swamp mats will be laid over BVW or whether multiple layers will be laid over BVW.

Mosher stated he would like to know how wide the structure base is so he can better understand the project.

Hale stated he would like to come back to the Commission to provide more details for the project.

MOTION: Moved by Mosher, seconded by DeHoyos.

Discussion:

Blasiak stated Hale should provide more details for the next meeting, including:

1. Dimensions of the tower structure;



William F. Martin
Mayor

City known as the Town of
GREENFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

Members:
Blasiak, John (2016)
DeHoyos, Thomas (2016)
Mosher, Timothy (2015)

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

2. Written narrative which describes the scope of work and what/how the applicant plans to do if areas are disturbed;
3. Location of staging area;
4. Alternative Analysis for the phase construction of concrete footings and swamp mats;
5. Depth of the Bordering Vegetated Wetland, where the swamp mats are planned to be laid down over;

MOTION: Moved by Mosher, seconded by DeHoyos, no further discussion and voted 3-0-0 to continue the hearing until the next regularly scheduled meeting.

7:25 RDA - 50 Raymond Road (Assessor's Map R12, Lot 65) and (Assessor's Map R17, Lot 3): Request for Determination of Applicability submitted by David Westbrook, for the property located at 50 Raymond Road (Assessor's Map R12, Lot 65) and (Assessor's Map R17, Lot 3), to determine whether the boundaries of resource area(s) depicted on submitted plans is accurately delineated and to determine whether the work depicted on submitted plans is subject to the MA Wetlands Protection Act and the Town of Greenfield Wetlands Protection Ordinance.

Mosher explained the background story of how Westbrook came before the Commission. Westbrook was planning to hold a private music festival at his property on August 9-10, 2014. In preparation of the event, Westbrook built two 24' X 18' platforms with concrete footings and removed tree stumps in the open field behind his house. Westbrook should have obtained a building permit prior to building the platforms. On July 14, 2014, Pollock was notified by other town departments regarding the recent activities and was asked to conduct a site visit in determining whether the area and work was subject to the jurisdiction of the Wetlands Protection Act and Greenfield Wetlands Ordinance. Pollock conducted a site visit on July 15, 2014 with representatives from the Police Department, Fire Department, Health Department, and Building and Inspection Department. Pollock observed the presence of wetland indicator plants. Pollock notified the Chair. Blasiak and Pollock conducted a follow up site visit on July 16, 2014. Pollock requested Westbrook to file a RDA with the Commission for the delineation, area, and proposed work.

Westbrook is present to explain his RDA submission. Stated since filing with the Commission, he has revised his request to only determine whether the area and proposed work on submitted plans is subject to the MA Wetlands Protection Act and the Greenfield Wetlands Ordinance due to time constraints. Westbrook hired William Lattrell, Professional Wetland Scientist to delineate the work area. Lattrell, Westbrook, Blasiak, Mosher, DeHoyos, and Pollock conducted a site visit of the property on July 21, 2014. Lattrell determined the presence of wetlands by two primary factors: a predominance of hydrophytic species (wetland plants) and the presence wetland hydrology (hydric soils is an indicator of hydrology). Lattrell showed the Commissioners where he determined the location of the bordering vegetated wetland (BVW) boundary line, which was approximately 145 feet from the edge of the open field. Proposed work within the open field,



William F. Martin
Mayor

City known as the Town of
GREENFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

Members:
Blasiak, John (2016)
DeHoyos, Thomas (2016)
Mosher, Timothy (2015)

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

which includes the construction of two 24' X 18' platforms with concrete footings and configuration of a temporary parking lot for approximately 100-250 cars.

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

MOTION: Moved by Mosher, seconded by DeHoyos, no further discussion and voted 3-0-0 to make a negative determination, box 1, the area described in the Request is not an area subject to protection under the Act or the Buffer Zone.

MOTION: Moved by Mosher, seconded by DeHoyos, no further discussion and voted 3-0-0 to make a negative determination, 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.

MOTION: Moved by Mosher, seconded by DeHoyos, no further discussion and voted 3-0-0 to make a negative determination, box 6, the area and work described in the Request is not subject to review and approval by the Greenfield Conservation Commission pursuant to the Wetlands Protection Ordinance, Chapter 195.

Other Business:

- **Cabot Taps Separation Project: New England Power Company dba National Grid, French King Highway and Silvio O Conte Drive (DEP #168- 0296):** Pollock received correspondence from Paul Knapik, representative for this approved project, stating the chosen contractor to perform the soil borings for this project is requesting to use low ground pressure equipment in lieu of the swamp mats in wetlands, as approved in the OOC. Knapik is also asking whether this could be allowed administratively or would this need an amended order of conditions. Knapik noted low ground pressure equipment (typically < 3 psi) is allowed by general condition 16 of the Massachusetts General Permit in lieu of swamp mats. The contractor maintains that using low pressure equipment would result in less disturbance than swamp mats because of the reduced footprint and amount of time required to install and remove the mats.

Mosher stated that this could be allowed administratively if Knapik could provide data that shows the use of low ground pressure equipment will have less of a disturbance to wetland soil and vegetation than the placement of swamp mats.

Pollock will ask Knapik to provide this data to the Commission.

- **Alex Haro, Associate Commission Member:** Blasiak stated he would like to offer Haro a



William F. Martin
Mayor

City known as the Town of
GREENFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

Members:
Blasiak, John (2016)
DeHoyos, Thomas (2016)
Mosher, Timothy (2015)

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

position as Associate Member on the Commission. The one year position would provide Haro the opportunity to contribute his expertise and experience to ongoing projects of his choice; provide him maximum flexibility in regards to attending meetings/site visits; and it would not require approval from the Mayor or Town Council.

MOTION: Moved by Mosher, seconded by DeHoyos, no further discussion and voted 3-0-0 to offer Alex Haro a position as Associate Member on the Commission.

- **Conservation Commission Orientation discussion:** Blasiak is working to create a conservation commission orientation for new members, which will provide useful information such as: roles and responsible of the Commission; types of wetlands and the regulations that protect them; permitting process; among other things. He hopes to distribute an outline to Commission members for comment at the next regularly scheduled meeting.

Project Monitoring:

Enforcement Updates/Possible Violations:

Correspondence:

- **Horses at GTD/Griswold Conservation Area:** A concerned resident notified the Commission that horseback riders are causing damage to the trails in the Griswold/GTD Conservation Area. On July 21, 2014, Pollock conducted a site visit of the trails, and took photographs for record. Pollock will read the property deed to see if horseback riders are allowed to use the trails.

Site Visit Scheduling:

1. **Parcel R27-25A (Surplus Property Disposition) – Meet Tuesday, July 29, 2014 at 3:00 PM at Murphy Park, located at 48 Leyden Road**
2. **592 Leyden Road (Possible Violation) – Meet Tuesday, July 29, 2014 at 4:00 PM on-site**
3. **Log Plain Road, Parcel R08-6 (RDA) – Meet Tuesday, July 29, 2014 at 4:15 on-site**

Next Meeting:

7:00 PM on Tuesday, August 12, 2014, at the Greenfield Department of Planning and Development; 114 Main Street



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)
Mosher, Timothy (2015)

Adjournment:

MOTION: Moved by Mosher, seconded by DeHoyos, no further discussion and voted 3-0-0 to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Maureen Pollock
Assistant Planner & Conservation Agent

John Blasiak
Chair