



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)
Miller, Gail (2017)
Mosher, Timothy (2015)
Nevins, Matthias (2017)

GREENFIELD CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Minutes of Tuesday December 9, 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
Gail Miller
Matthias Nevins

ALSO PRESENT: Cynthia Boettner, Silvio O. Conte National Fish and Wildlife Refuge
Maureen Pollock, Assistant Planner & Conservation Agent

ABSENT: Timothy Mosher, Vice-chair
Thomas DeHoyos

Approval of Minutes:

Approval of Meeting Minutes from November 25, 2014.

MOTION: Moved by Nevins, seconded by Miller, no further discussion and voted 3-0-0 to accept the minutes from November 25, 2014.

Public Meetings/Hearings:

Other Business:

- **Invasive Plant: Japanese Stiltgrass, *Microstegium vimineum*:** Cynthia Boettner, with the Silvio O. Conte National Fish and Wildlife Refuge presented information about the species. Japanese stiltgrass is considered by some to be one of the worst invasive plants in the country. If left unchecked, it can degrade wildlife habitat in woodlands and become a fire hazard. It has been working its way northward from the Mid-Atlantic States and is already established in some communities in the lower Pioneer Valley. The New England Wild Flower Society had a few years of funding for control, but since funding is spotty, concerned partners are encouraging towns and watershed groups to watch for it and control it when found. The only known sites for this species in Franklin County are in Conway, Northfield and Greenfield. There are already control efforts underway in Conway and Northfield. In Greenfield, it was discovered two years ago on South Shelburne Road along the hairpin



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curve. Last year two New England Wild Flower Society interns weed-whacked part of this population and started to inform residents about it. This year there was no control, but landowners were informed about it. A last-minute informational session was held one evening, but nobody attended. Boettner asked the Sheriffs crew if they could work on it, but by the time they were available, the plants were too far along and would have dropped their seeds anyway. As far as Boettner knows, only a couple of landowners have taken action. Boettner would like to work with partners in Greenfield to help develop a strategy to keep it from spreading further.

Pollock offered the Planning Department office as a place to host informational meetings for area residents.

Blasiak suggested that Boettner determine what the site conditions for the species survival and mortality are, as well as the plant population biology and the physiological ecology in order to determine long-term eradication and control measures.

- **Conservation Commission Rules & Regulations:** It has come to the Commission's attention that the CC Rules & Regulation section on CC alternates has not been updated to reflect the Town Charter. The Commission has not been allowed to have an alternate member serve since the Charter was enacted on January 4, 2008. The Commission is the only land use board in Greenfield that is not allowed to have an alternative member.

Under the CC Rules & Regulation Article 2 states: "per the Greenfield Home Rule Charter, the CC consists of five (5) Full Members and two (2) Alternate Members. The five full members have voting power at all meetings. Alternate members may participate in a deliberation of the CC, by may not vote. A quorum will consist of 3 voting members of the CC. Alternate members cannot help constitute a quorum."

Under the Town Charter, Section 6-21(a) states: "there shall be a Conservation Commission consisting of five (5) members appointed by the Mayor, with approval by Town Council, serving staggered three-year terms. A quorum will consist of 3 voting members of the CC."

MOTION: Moved by Nevins, seconded by Miller, no further discussion and voted 3-0-0 to delete the Article 2 wording under the CC Rules & Regulations, and replace it with the following wording: "Per the Greenfield Home Rule Charter, the CC consists of five (5) Full Members. The five full members have voting power at all meetings. A quorum will consist of 3 voting members of the CC."

- **Local Wetlands Protection Ordinance:** The Commission will hold off discussing possible revisions to the local Ordinance until the full Board is present.
- **Baseline Reports/Annual Monitoring for Town-Owned Conservation Land:** The



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Commission reviewed the list of items to be included in the baseline reports. Pollock has started to prepare a baseline report for one conservation property.

- **MassDEP Workshops on the Wetlands Protection Act, Regulatory changes:** MassDEP has updated the Wetlands Protection Act Regulations. These changes became effective on October 24, 2014. Pollock attended a regulatory update workshop and discussed some of the revisions made. Pollock handed out a summary sheet of the revisions to the Commission.

Project Monitoring:

Enforcement Updates/Possible Violations:

Correspondence:

Site Visit Scheduling:

Next Meeting:

7:00 PM on Tuesday, January 13, 2015, at the Greenfield Department of Planning and Development; 114 Main Street

Adjournment:

MOTION: Moved by Nevins, seconded by Miller, no further discussion and voted 3-0-0 to adjourn the meeting at 8:50 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Maureen Pollock
Assistant Planner & Conservation Agent

John Blasiak
Chair