



William F. Martin
Mayor

City known as the Town of
GREENFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Town Hall • 14 Court Square • Greenfield, MA 01301
Phone 413-772-1548 ext 3103 • Fax 413-772-1309
Conservation@greenfield-ma.gov • www.greenfield-ma.gov

Members:

Blasiak, John (2016)
DeHoyos, Thomas (2016)
Miller, Gail (2017)
Mosher, Timothy (2018)
Nevins, Matthias (2017)

GREENFIELD CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Minutes of Tuesday August 11, 2015

**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
Matthias Nevins
Gail Miller

ALSO PRESENT: Dawn Travalini, National Grid
Binoy KoodhathinKal, National Grid
Daniel White, National Grid
Paul Knapik, BSC Group
Tim Condon, Lightship Engineering
Jack Yablonsky, Berkshire Gas
Ishwar Murayka, Ish Inc.

ABSENT: Thomas DeHoyos
Maureen Pollock, Assistant Planner & Conservation Agent

Approval of Minutes:

Approval of Meeting Minutes from July 28, 2015.

MOTION: Moved by Nevins, seconded by Miller, no further discussion and voted 4-0-0 to accept the minutes from July 28, 2015, as amended.

Public Meetings/Hearings:

7:10 NOI - New England Power Company d/b/a National Grid, existing utility right-of-way between Adams Road and the Connecticut River: Notice of Intent submitted by New England Power Company d/b/a National Grid, for property located at an existing utility right-of-way between Adams Road and the Connecticut River, for activities associated with the proposed Cabot Taps Separation.

Dawn Travalini, Binoy KoodhathinKal, Daniel White, Paul Knapik, and Tim Condon were present to explain the proposed activities associated with the Greenfield portion of the Cabot Taps Separation Project. The proposed project is to separate a 2.7 mile long transmission line owned by New England Power d/b/a National Grid (NEP). The Greenfield portion is located between Adams Road and the



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Connecticut River in Greenfield and the entire project is located within an existing NEP right-of-way in Greenfield and Montague.

Knapik presented the project plan which includes doing all work in the jurisdictional areas on swamp mats. Work will begin at the Montague end first so that swamp mats would be in place for the least amount of time possible in the Greenfield location. No work is planned within the stream. Permanent wetland impacts will be approximately 428 square feet of bordering vegetated wetland (BVW) and 14 cubic yards of compensatory flood storage in Greenfield from the installation of seven structures that will support the new transmission lines. The proposal includes approximately 900 square feet of compensation wetland, located entirely in Greenfield to satisfy compensation requirements for both Montague and Greenfield wetland impacts. The mitigation wetland area includes removing the gravel from an old pad, leaving footings in place in order to minimize disturbance to surrounding area, and covering with appropriate vegetation. The conditions will be documented before and after construction.

Discussion included a request by Blasiak for copies of weekly reports that were mentioned in the presentation and it was agreed that monthly summaries would be sufficient. Other requested items included assurance that excavation material would not be placed in the wetland, inspections after rainfall events, which are also required by the NPDES permit, would be included in the monthly reporting, notification of the commission prior to planting in any jurisdictional areas, and that any planting would be monitored and documented through two growing seasons.

Mosher asked about the federal permits and the applicants responded that they hoped to obtain EPA and Army Corp of Engineers approval by the end of the calendar year 2015. Mosher also asked about refueling/containment and spill procedures in the resource area. The applicants referred to Attachment E of the NOI "EG303 National Grid Best Management Practices" which is contained on the CD supplied with the NOI.

A question was asked about the dewatering process. The dewatering process was described and is included in the EG303 guidance document. Water is to be pumped through a dirt bag to an upland area or to a Frac Tank, if necessary with prior approval of the National Grid Environmental Scientist or the Project Environmental Consultant who would also approve the upland location to deposit accumulated sediment removed from the dirt bags or other sediment collection devices (silt fence fabric, straw bales, other filter berm, check dams or water bars) that might be used in the project. Two of the poles, which are constructed of weathered steel, will be placed within 200 feet of the riverfront. Knapik said that they have applied for state MEPA certificate as required by paragraph 401 and the Army Corp Permit as required by paragraph 404 of the federal Clean Water Act. The project is expected to begin toward the end of 2016.

Blasiak conducted a site visit with the applicants on August 11, 2015. Blasiak observed the existing wetland area and described it as a moderate value wetland with low biologic value. The replication area has good hydric continuity and the expectation is that the created wetland will be at least equally as good.



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The order of conditions will primarily focus on reporting requirements. Knapik asked to see the draft order of conditions.

MOTION: Moved by Mosher, seconded by Nevins, no further discussion and voted 4-0-0 to close the public hearing and issue an Order of Conditions for DEP # 168-0309 under the Wetlands Protection Act and Greenfield Wetlands Protection Ordinance, with the following special conditions:

1. A monthly report summarizing the weekly “Storm Water, Wetlands & Priority Habitat Environmental Compliance Site Inspection/Monitoring Report” of the project work areas shall be distributed to the Conservation Commission until work sites are properly stabilized and restored.
2. Prior to planting, seeding and/or mulching any disturbed areas within resources areas and/or wetland buffers, the applicant shall submit to the Conservation Commission for their approval a list of the plant species intended to be seeded and/or planted.
3. All new plantings shall be monitored with status reports submitted to the Commission biannually for the first two growing seasons. The status report shall include photo documentation and a written narrative describing general site conditions and a census of the plant community. Plants dying within this period shall be replaced as needed to ensure vegetative cover of the site. Monitoring and submitted status reports shall occur in June and September, respectively.
4. Small equipment such as pumps and generators shall be placed in small swimming pools or on absorbent blankets/pads, to contain any accidental fuel spills. These containment areas shall be constructed and maintained to prevent accumulation of precipitation.
5. Small swimming pools with absorbent blankets/pads, and/or other secondary containment, shall be used for refueling of fixed equipment in wetlands. These containment areas shall be constructed and maintained to prevent accumulation of precipitation.

Other Business:

- **Request for Certificate of Compliance: 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)** Berkshire Gas Project is seeking a certificate of compliance and permission to remove the silt fence which has been in place for two years, now that the vegetation has succeeded. Nine monitoring/extraction wells are still in place at the site. Product recovery is expected to continue for two more years and the wells which contained 13 feet of product at the start now contain roughly 1.5 feet of product when removed every six months.



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Blasiak conducted a site visit with the applicants on August 11, 2015. Blasiak observed the trees showing no die back, shrub layers, forb layer including grasses, litter layer all look healthy high biodiversity and wildlife value, no Japanese knotweed, and very little oriental bittersweet and multiflora rose. Sheet erosion has stabilized from clonal growth of ferns primarily and overall he considered this to be a textbook case of excellent remediation.

MOTION: Moved by Mosher, seconded by Nevins, no further discussion and voted 4-0-0 to issue an Certificate of Compliance for DEP # 168-0290.

- **Highland Park, blocked culvert:** A memo was prepared asking for a proposal from DPW. Blasiak read the reply memo dated August 3, 2015. The Commission approved the proposal to let them clean the culvert without a permit with the condition that a coffer dam be located upstream. The DPW would need to come back to the Commission if the culvert cannot be unblocked by this measure.

Project Monitoring:

Enforcement Updates/Possible Violations:

Correspondence:

Site Visit Scheduling:

Next Meeting:

7:00 PM on Tuesday, August 25, 2015, at the Greenfield Department of Planning and Development; 114 Main Street

Adjournment:

MOTION: Moved by Miller, seconded by Nevins, no further discussion and voted 4-0-0 to adjourn the meeting at 8:13 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Maureen Pollock
Assistant Planner & Conservation Agent

John Blasiak
Chair