



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 3 • Fax 413-772-1309  
Conservation@greenfield-ma.gov • www.greenfield-ma.gov

*Members:*  
DeHoyos, Thomas (2016)  
Miller, Gail (2017)  
Mosher, Timothy (2018)  
Nevins, Matthias (2017)

**GREENFIELD CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

**Minutes of Tuesday, April 26, 2016**

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

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

**PRESENT:** Matthias Nevins, Chair Protém  
Gail Miller  
Thomas DeHoyos

**ALSO PRESENT:** Joseph P. Mattei, Architect  
Maureen Pollock, Assistant Planner & Conservation Agent

**ABSENT:** Timothy Mosher

Per the Greenfield Conservation Commission Rules & Regulations, Article IV, “the Chair Protém – In the absence of the Chair and Vice Chair, a Chair Protém may be elected for that meeting.”

**MOTION: Moved by DeHoyos, seconded by Miller, no further discussion, and voted 3-0-0 to elect Matthias Nevins the Chair Protém for the meeting.**

Approval of Minutes:

Approval of Meeting Minutes from March 22, 2016.

The minutes have not been prepared.

Approval of Meeting Minutes from April 12, 2016.

The Commission would like to table the approval of April 12<sup>th</sup> minutes until the next regularly scheduled meeting.

Public Meetings/Hearings:

- **Continued 7:10p.m. RDA – Pan Am Railways, Pan Am Right-of-Way:** Request for Determination of Applicability submitted by Pan Am Railways, for property located at Pan Am Right-of-Way, to determine whether the boundaries of resource area(s) depicted on submitted plans is accurately delineated.



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Keith Morris, the consultant for Pan Am Railways submitted an email correspondence to the Commission stating that he was unable to attend tonight's meeting due to a conflict with Suffield. Morris. However, Pan Am is hoping that the Commission can issue the Determination without their attendance.

Pan Am is required to file a RDA every 5 years as part of Pan Am's 5 year Vegetation Management Plan for weed spraying. The purpose of the RDA is for verification of the "no spray" zones as per the Rights of Way regulations. The no spray areas stay pretty much the same as they include stream crossings, wetlands etc. The areas are remarked periodically with spray paint and more importantly, Morris will ride with the licensed applicator during the spraying to insure that the "no spray" zones are located and not sprayed. Pan Am treats the entire right of way as a sensitive area (buffer zone), therefore, only herbicides approved for use in sensitive areas by the State can be applied.

Pollock and Morris conducted a site inspection on April 22, 2016. Pollock observed the no spray areas and the no spray marking. Pollock distributed photographs of the markings.

Mark Stinson of MassDEP requests that the Commission issue a positive 2a Determination for the wetland delineation. It is also recommended to the Commission that they write in the comment section that the Determination is only for the purpose of weed spraying.

The work itself is an exempt activity per WPA 310 CMR 10.03(6).

Chair Protem Nevins opened the public hearing.

No Comments

Chair Protem closed the public hearing at 7:25p.m.

**MOTION:** Moved by DeHoyos, seconded by Miller, no further discussion, and voted 3-0-0 to issue a positive determination 2a the boundary delineations of the following resource areas described on the referenced plan(s) are confirmed as accurate. Therefore, the resource area boundaries confirmed in this Determination are binding as to all decisions rendered pursuant to the WPA and its regulations regarding such boundaries for as long as this Determination is valid. This Determination is only for the purpose of weed sprays by Pan Am Railways.

Other Business:

- **15 Greenfield Street (Assessor's Map R05, Lot 28C):** Representative for the property owner, Joseph P. Mattei was present to informally discuss Valley Steel Stamp's plans to build



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a 20,000 square foot addition to their existing building. Based on a site visit observations with Pollock on March 9, 2016, the property owner had the site delineated for wetlands. Wetland resources present on the property include: an intermittent stream, bordering vegetated wetlands, and inland bank. The proposed building addition would be sited ontop of the intermittent stream. Pollock suggested that the property owner could have the building and/or walkway to the new addition cantilevered with low impact fountain posts. Another option is to pipe the intermittent stream. The pipe would need to meet the current MA River and Stream Crossing Standards. All wetlands temporary or permanently impacted wetlands would require mitigation per the WPA and local Ordinance.

DeHoyos inquired whether the property owner has looked at alternative locations on the site. Inquired whether the building could be built in front of the existing building. Mattei responded the proposed site, which is east of the existing building is the flattest portion of the property. Other portions of the property would be costly to cut and fill. Mattei will have to discuss whether the front of the building could be a viable option.

Pollock suggested to Mattei to examine his options with his client.

- **Tire Dumping, off of Colorado Avenue:** Pollock informed the Commission that the Connecticut River Watershed Council (CRWC) intends to remove more tires above the soil as part of the 2016 Green River Source to Sea Cleanup. CRWC will follow the same procedures and condition as approved under the Determination of Applicability. The approved Determination is valid until 2017.
- **Trails Assessment, Conservation Properties next to the Swim Area:** Dick O'Brien submitted his recommendations to the Commission. The Commission discussed implementing trails improvements in phases. The Commission will discuss this further at the next regularly scheduled meeting.
- **Invasive Plant Control, Conservation Properties next to the Swim Area:** Chris Polatin of Polatin Ecological Services, LLC, Cathy Wilkins (teacher from Greenfield High School), Mosher, Miller, and Pollock conducted a site visit on April 19, 2016. During the site visit, Wilkins expressed that her after school environmental club would like to inventory the invasive plants on the property. Polatin expressed that inventorying the plants is a good first step for prioritizing which areas and/or plant species to focus on. Polatin expressed that the conservation properties next the swim area are overwhelmingly covered in invasive plants. Expressed it may be too late to permanently remove the invasives without contracting out a long-term and costly measures. Suggested it may be wise for the Commission to identify properties that have newly established invasive plants and focus attention on them.

Enforcement Updates/Possible Violations:



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- **Greenfield Auto Wrecking, 392 Deerfield Street:** Miller, Mosher, and Pollock conducted a site visit from the road on April 19, 2016. The junk cars were observed to be near a wetland. The junk cars have been on the premises before the WPA. Therefore, the Commission does not feel that have the authority to issue a cease and desist order.

Project Monitoring:

- **MassDOT, Rte 5/10 at Cheapside Street, Roadway Improvement Project:** MassDOT is be starting work the second week of May. All erosion controls have been properly installed.

Correspondence:

- **John Blasiak:** Pollock distributed a memo submitted by John Blasiak. The memo outlines his disagreements with the other Commission members' use of the "waiver" for a project at the prior meeting. Blasiak resigned from the Conservation Commission effective April 15th. Timothy Mosher submitted a rebuttal memo to the Commission. Pollock will file both memos for permanent record.
- Matthias Nevins informed the Commission that he will be moving away in July/August. Therefore, he will be resigning from the Commission effective sometime in July/August.

Site Visit Scheduling:

Next Meeting:

7:00 PM on Tuesday, May 10, 2016, at the Greenfield Department of Planning and Development;  
114 Main Street

Adjournment:

**MOTION: Moved by Miller, seconded by DeHoyos, no further discussion and voted 3-0-0 to adjourn the meeting at 8:12 PM.**

Respectfully Submitted,  
Maureen Pollock  
Assistant Planner & Conservation Agent

Matthias Nevins  
Chair Protem