



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:
Griffin, John (2019)
LaForme, Erika (2019)
Lindsay, Rachel (2020)
Mosher, Timothy (2018)

GREENFIELD CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Minutes of Tuesday, August 8, 2017

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

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

PRESENT: Timothy Mosher, Chair
Erika LaForme
Rachel Lindsay
John Griffin

ALSO PRESENT: Selene Weber, Landscape Architect
Denis Menard
Donald Ouellette, DPW Director
Maureen Pollock, Assistant Planner & Conservation Agent

Approval of Minutes:

Approval of Meeting Minutes from July 11, 2017.

MOTION: Moved by Lindsay, seconded by Griffin, no further discussion and voted 3-0-1 (Griffin abstained) to accept the minutes from July 11, 2017.

Public Meetings/Hearings:

- **7:00 p.m. Continued NOI – Charlie Fiechter/GTR Greenfield Millbrook Solar LLC, - 195 Mill Brook Road (Assessor’s Map R11, Lot 84):** Notice of Intent submitted by Charlie Fiechter/GTR Greenfield Millbrook Solar LLC, for property located at 195 Mill Brook Road (Assessor’s Map R11, Lot 84), for the installation of a 4,320 panel 1.468 MW ground-mounted solar photovoltaic system at this location.

Via email correspondence, the applicant requested to continue the public hearing until the August 22nd Commission meeting.

MOTION: Moved by Lindsay, seconded by Griffin, and voted 4-0-0 to continue the public hearing until August 22, 2017.

Other Business:



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- **106 ½ Deerfield Street – degraded areas-** Lindsay, LaForme, Pollock, MJ Adams, Selene Weber, and Mark Ledwell conducted a site visit on May 30, 2017 to observe existing “degraded areas” on site. Under the WPA, degraded areas in the Riverfront Area are impervious surfaces from existing structures, or pavements, absences of topsoil, junkyards, or abandoned dumping grounds.

During the July 25th Commission meeting, Roger Cooney presented a site plan with degraded areas. Commission members noted that the square footage of degraded area as shown on the site plan were not accurate. The Commission requested that the applicant review the square footage and come back with accurate numbers, as well as providing color on the site plan to help Commission members better understand the plan; and historic photographs of the property, if possible.

Selene Weber was present with a revised plan showing degraded areas on-site. Weber stated the property has now been surveyed, the existing trees have been inventoried, and the river and bank have been delineated and are now reflected on the site plan. The plan also shows the footprint and square footage of the three houses, driveways, and debris area. The plan totaled 8,800 square feet of degraded area within the Riverfront Area.

LaForme stated the degraded plan is much clearer now.

Lindsay stated she would like the plan legend to clarify the degraded areas indicated in the plan are located in the Riverfront Area only.

Mosher inquired the length of the driveway. Weber responded the driveway is 160 feet long within the Riverfront Area and is 20 feet wide.

Pollock advised the Commission to not vote on degraded areas and square footage until the public hearing is open. Stated this is conversation should be just an informal discussion. The Commission agreed to hold off voting on the degraded area but reflected that the degraded areas specified in the submitted site plan appeared to be reasonable.

Mosher stated he would like to do a site visit prior to the public hearing and would like to have the property mowed/brush hogged prior to the site visit.

- **Certificate of Compliance Request - 142 Mohawk Trail/Route 2A (DEP #168-0301) –** Pollock did a site inspection on August 8, 2017 and observed that the project is compliance with the approved Order of Conditions.

MOTION: Moved by Lindsay, seconded by Griffin, no further discussion and voted 4-0-0 to approve the Certificate of Compliance for DEP #168-0301.



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- **Trail Work: Green River Conservation Area:** The high school students and teacher, Cathy Wilkins have completed over 50% of the trail work needed for the property. The funded for the project have been fully used. Dick O'Brien suggested the Commission apply for a trails grant for the remainder of the work needed, which include 3 sets of stairs. Pollock will get a thank you card for Cathy Wilkins and students for the Commission members to sign.

Enforcement Updates/Possible Violations:

- **637 Colrain Road** –Pollock received a telephone call about potential violation occurring at this property. The property owner may be adding large amount of fill to/near a wetland. Pollock sent a cease and desist letter to Mr. Menard and requested that he attend the meeting.

Denis Menard, property owner of 637 Colrain Road was present to discuss the possible violation at his property. Menard stated he has been receiving fill from the construction site at the Senior Center, located on Pleasant Street, Greenfield. He said the intention of the fill is to level his two fields and restore it to agriculture. Stated he would like to take a bulldozer to level it and seed it. Pollock and Nick Reitzell, Town Engineer were given permission to enter his property on July 28, 2017 to locate the activity. Pollock stated that it appeared the activity was occurring in or near a wetland and in the Buffer Zone. The Commission instructed Menard to hire a wetland scientist to delineate the property, figure out where he can and cannot add fill to this property, and to submit the report and application to the Commission. The Commission stated that the cease and desist order has not be lifted until Commission approval.

- **Plain Road (right-of-way)** –MassDEP has recently notified the Conservation Commission that a possible violation may have occurred by the DPW regarding recent activity related to a Plain Rd right-of-way maintenance project adjacent to Allen Brook and Punch Brook. The Conservation Commission requests that a DPW staff member attend the August 8th meeting in order to discuss these matters. Donald Ouellette was present to discuss the activities. Ouellette stated DPW staff removed built up sediment and vegetation from the vegetation shoulder. Stated the shoulder was bare. Stated the DPW should have filed the project with the Commission prior to commencement. Stated DPW staff seeded and laid straw over the disturbed area. Stated DPW will file a Notice of Intent for further maintenance needs adjacent to wetlands and streams.

Project Monitoring:

- **660 Colrain Road**– Pollock inspected the sedimentation and erosion controls prior to work commencement. Pollock did a follow-up site visit and observed all work has been completed and the bank has been stabilized.

Correspondence:

- **Notification of Utility Maintenance Activities – A127/B128 and Y177/B128 Transmission**



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Lines, New England Power Company– National Grid submitted a written notification to inform the Commission of necessary utility maintenance to be performed as part of the A127/B128 and Y177/B128 Transmission Line Footer Repair Project. Some of the structures are/or associated access routes are located within wetland resource areas and/or Buffer Zones. This project is considered normal maintenance of an existing facility used in the service of providing electricity to the public. No change in use or increase in size will result from the proposed maintenance work. Therefore, National Grid intends to perform this work as exempt maintenance under WPA and local Wetlands Protection Ordinance. BMPs such as swamp mats and erosion and sediment controls will be utilized as necessary, and no impacts to resource areas are anticipated.

Site Visit Scheduling:

Next Meeting:

7:00 PM on Tuesday, August 22, 2017, at the Greenfield Department of Planning and Development; 114 Main Street.

Adjournment:

MOTION: Moved by Griffin, seconded by LaForme, no further discussion and voted 4-0-0 to adjourn the meeting at 8:21 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Maureen Pollock
Assistant Planner & Conservation Agent

Timothy Mosher
Chair