



William F. Martin  
Mayor

City known as the Town of  
**GREENFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS**  
**CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

Town Hall • 14 Court Square • Greenfield, MA 01301  
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Timothy Mosher, Chair  
Rachel Lindsay, Vice  
Chair  
Erika LaForme  
John Griffin  
Douglas Cloutier

Agent: Sarah Brodeur

**GREENFIELD CONSERVATION COMMISSION**  
**Meeting Minutes of Tuesday, May 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2018**  
**Greenfield Department of Planning and Development**  
**114 Main Street, Greenfield MA 01301**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Timothy Mosher at 6:02 PM with the following members:

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Timothy Mosher, Chair  
Rachel Lindsay, Vice Chair  
Doug Cloutier  
Erika LaForme  
John Griffin

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** None

**ALSO PRESENT:** Peter W. Conway, 47 Riverview Drive, Gill MA 01354  
Martha L. Stiles, 595 Bernardston Road, Greenfield MA 01301  
David Conway, 22 Conway Drive, Greenfield MA 01301

**6:02 PM Administrative Matters: Approval of Minutes – May 8, 2018**

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**Motion made by Rachel Lindsay to approve the minutes from May 24, 2018 as written**

**Motion seconded by Doug Cloutier**

**No further discussion – 3-0-2 – Motion Carries (Erika LaForme & John Griffin abstained)**

**6:07 PM Public Inquiries: 441 Davis Street – oil slicks and water backing up into yard**

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The GCC received an inquiry from Thomas Travis of 441 Davis Street on May 8, 2018 pertaining to the presence of oil slicks and ponding water in his backyard in proximity to a town sewer drain on Harrison Avenue. The Conservation Agent performed a site inspection on May 8, 2018 to observe and document the presence of oil and water on the property. Mr. Travis informed the Agent during the site inspection that he has had a history with water backing up into his yard due to the filling of wetlands and misdirection of stormwater in the neighborhood, in addition to the presence of a buried stream which daylighted in his backyard. Mr. Travis provided the Agent with correspondence from the GCC dated July 17, 1990 stating that he has permission to loam and seed his backyard provided that there are no impacts to the stream. Mr. Travis also informed the Agent that the oil seepage has only been occurring for the past year, and that there is an auto repair shop located at 427 Davis Street that he believes to be the source of the contamination. Mr. Travis continued to state that the automotive shop was storing used oil in a shed on the property, and that he requested that the oil barrels be removed from the site to prevent further contamination of the area; the management of the auto shop informed Mr. Travis that the oil barrels had been removed from the property approximately a month prior to May 8, 2018.

The Conservation Agent contacted MassDEP's Bureau of Waste Site Cleanup (BWCS) on May 17, 2018 to report the possible oil slicks, and was informed that an environmental analyst would be sent to the property to conduct a site visit and perform tests to determine the precise chemical that was precipitating up from the ground at 441 Davis Street. The site visit was conducted on May 18, 2018 and subsequent analysis of the substance determined that it was not oil but rather a



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naturally occurring oily sheen that forms as a result of bacteria decomposition in the spring and summer months.

**6:10 PM Other Projects, Monitoring, Enforcements & Violations**

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**1. Discuss Murphy Park 5/22/8 site visit with CRC – proposed removal of cars:**

Tim Mosher, Doug Cloutier and the Conservation Agent met with David Bowles from the Connecticut River Conservancy at Murphy Park to discuss a proposal to remove several old cars from a ravine extending from Murphy Park to the Green River Swim and Recreation Area off of Nash's Mill Road. The site visit revealed three (3) old cars, a safe and water heater in the ravine that had been there for quite some time due to the amount of rust visible on the items and in the water at the base of the ravine. The goal of the project would be to remove the cars and other materials from the ravine during the summer of 2018, prior to the Connecticut River Conservancy's Source-to-Sea Cleanup which is scheduled to occur on September 29 and 30. Due to the location of the items at various depths in the ravine, the items will be removed using a pulley system effectively winching them out of the ravine, which may require the removal of a few trees to operate the machinery, and has implications on the adjacent wetlands. The GCC agreed that the work should be permitted through a Request for Determination of Applicability (RDA), and instructed the Agent to contact David Bowles to relay this information.

**2. Updates on possible violations – 22 Conway Drive:**

David Conway of 22 Conway Drive was present in addition Peter Conway, of Gill and Martha Stiles, of Greenfield to discuss the possible violations of the MA Wetlands Protection Act (WPA), MA Endangered Species Act (MESA), and the Greenfield Wetlands Protection Ordinance (GWPO) due to the existence of a road adjacent to the Green River. David Conway stated that the road observed on his property is not a newly constructed access along the Green River, but is an old cart path created by his parents when they were the owners of the property many years ago that has been widened due to the most recent hurricane in addition to mitigation efforts by environmental groups in town. He continued to inform the GCC that the property has been a farm since the 1880's, and that his family continued to farm there upon their ownership of the land in the early 1900's. Mr. Conway stated that he has continued to farm the property since he purchased it in 2009, but that he does not use pesticides or fertilizer in his agricultural process. He continued to show the GCC several pictures of the road in question, which depicted vigorous vegetation growth that could not be possible if the road was newly constructed. The GCC discussed this information and decided that Mr. Conway is aware of the impacts of agriculture to water resources and has taken steps to ensure the Green River's integrity, and therefore determined that there was no illegal activity occurring at 22 Conway Drive.

**3. Request for Certificate of Compliance: DEP # 168-0274 – Leyden Woods:**

The GCC received a Request for a Certificate of Compliance (COC) and a planting plan from Stantec Consulting Services, Inc. on May 8, 2018 for the Leyden Woods affordable living development. The planting plan was developed to address site erosion issues at seven (7) locations within the subdivision that were identified in December of 2017, which resulted in a denied Request for COC, and additionally reviewed at a site visit on April 10, 2018 by the Agent, members of the Commission, and a consultant from Stantec. The project Representative informed the Agent that landscape architects will be on site during the week of May 14, 2018 to implement the planting plan, and intend to conclude the corrective work by May 17, 2018. The Agent performed site visits on May 15 and May 17, 2018 and observed that the corrective work was not completed during the time frame stated in the narrative submitted with the Request for COC form, and recommended that the GCC deny the Request.

**Motion made by Rachel Lindsay to deny the Request for Certificate of Compliance for DEP # 168-0274**

**Motion seconded by Erika LaForme**



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No further discussion – 5-0-0 – Motion Carries

**4. Updates on possible Violations:**

- a) **8 Conway Drive:** There were no updates regarding this possible violation.
- b) **258 Shelburne Road:** The GCC reviewed aerial photographs of 258 Shelburne Road from 2010, 2011 and 2014 to determine if vegetation clearing adjacent to Wheeler Brook is a violation of the MA WPA and the GWPO. The property owners were last in front of the GCC in 2015 for excessive vegetation clearing, and were instructed that they could only remove the invasive Japanese knotweed vegetation adjacent to Wheeler Brook. Upon review of the aerial photographs, the GCC could not determine if additional vegetation has been cleared. The Agent was instructed to review the minutes from 2015 to determine the precise requirements of the work at 258 Shelburne Road, which will determine if further enforcement action will be pursued.
- c) **49 Overland Road:** The Agent sent a letter via certified mail to the owner of Northeast Tree Care & Landscaping of Sunderland, MA on May 24, 2018 per the instruction of the GCC to remind him of the jurisdiction of the GCC and permitting requirements through the MA WPA and GWPO for work in wetland resource areas and their buffer zones.

**5. Review EverSource Greenfield Substation project:**

The GCC received correspondence from EverSource pertaining to necessary maintenance work required at the Greenfield Substation located at 15 Power Court that will involve the replacement of four (4) poles and the construction of two (2) trenches to house new conduits. Two (2) of the poles are located on the edge of a Priority Habitat of Rare Species area, and one (1) of those 2 poles is located within the 100-year floodplain. The Agent has a meeting scheduled with the project proponents on May 29, 2018 to learn of proposed the construction time frame and to determine if a filing through the GCC is required for this work.

**6. Regional anaerobic digester – schedule site visit with DPW:**

The DPW requested that the GCC schedule a site visit to discuss possible locations for a regional anaerobic digester. The Agent will schedule the site visit for June 7, 2018.

**7. Greenfield Middle School Teaching with Trout Program:**

Christy Moore, Greenfield Recreation Director requested that this project be added to the agenda for the GCC's review, but did not provide a date when the trout release was scheduled. The Agent will inquire as to the date of the release so that she and available Commissioners may be present.

**8. Highland Pond CRE on 6/4/2018:**

The Agent was requested to attend the next Highland Pond CRE meeting at the Elm Terrace Community Room.

**9. Upcoming public hearing: 6/12/2018 – 125 Mohawk Trail (Map 46 & 47, Parcels 1, 21, 9) – Greenfield Hotel proposed development:**

The GCC received a Notice of Intent submitted by CHA Consulting, Inc. c/o the Pioneer Valley Hotel Group for the proposed development of a new hotel, two (2) additional buildings, new utility service connections and improved stormwater management systems. The Agent will schedule a pre-hearing site visit to 125 Mohawk Trail on 6/7/2018 in preparation for the public hearing that is scheduled for 6/12/2018 at 6:15 PM.



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**Set Next Meeting Date:** Tuesday, June 12<sup>th</sup>, 2018 at 6:00 PM in the Greenfield Department of Planning and Development, located at 114 Main Street in Greenfield.

**Meeting Adjourned at 8:04 PM**

**Motion made by Erika LaForme to adjourn at 8:04 PM**

**Motion seconded by Rachel Lindsay**

**No further discussion – 5-0-0 – Motion Carries**

Respectfully Submitted,  
Sarah Brodeur  
Conservation Agent

Timothy Mosher,  
Chair