



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  
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John Griffin, Chair  
Rachel Lindsay, Vice Chair  
Erika LaForme  
Douglas Cloutier

Agent: Sarah Fortune

**GREENFIELD CONSERVATION COMMISSION**  
**Meeting Minutes of Tuesday, November 27<sup>th</sup>, 2018**  
**Greenfield Department of Planning and Development**  
**114 Main Street, Greenfield MA 01301**

The meeting was called to order by Chair John Griffin at 6:03 PM with the following members:

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

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** None

**ALSO PRESENT:** Maria Firstenberg, TRC Environmental Corporation; 650 Suffolk Street, Lowell, MA 01854  
Kris Pitney, Pacifico Energy NA; 50 Milk Street, 17<sup>th</sup> Floor, Boston, MA 02104  
Max Lamson, TRC Environmental Corporation; 650 Suffolk Street, Lowell, MA 01854

**6:03 PM Administrative Matters: Approval of Minutes from August 14, 2018 & October 9, 2018**

**Motion made by Erika LaForme to approve the minutes from 8/14/2018 as written**

**Motion seconded by Rachel Lindsay**

**No further discussion – 4-0-0 – Motion Carries**

**Motion made by Rachel Lindsay to table the approval of the minutes from 10/9/2018 to 12/11/2018**

**Motion seconded by Doug Cloutier**

**No further discussion – 4-0-0 – Motion Carries**

**6:09 PM Administrative Matters: Review Correspondence (Mail & Phone Messages) -- MACC FY20 dues**

The GCC received advance notice from MACC regarding the membership dues for fiscal year 2020. The dues will increase two (2) percent from FY19 to FY20.

**6:11 PM Administrative Matters: Agent Report – North Quabbin Regional Landscape Partnership meeting**

The Agent attended a meeting of the North Quabbin Regional Landscape Partnership on November 8, 2018. The Agent learned of a new possible funding source to develop conservation events centered around the “peer to peer” process, because it has been proven that people seek information from their peers more frequently than turning to a professional. The Agent will update the GCC when funding becomes available.

**6:13 PM Other Projects, Monitoring, Enforcements & Violations**

**1. Violation updates, 449 Country Club Road – septic system installation:**

The Agent provided an update on the septic system installation violations discovered at 449 Country Club Drive, reporting that she had spoken with the contractor responsible for carrying out the buffer zone restoration who



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informed her that the only component of the restoration remaining is to move the boulders to the edge of the buffer zone to serve as a visual barrier to the wetlands, but that the blueberry bushes and seed had been planted. The Agent will follow up with the property owner to ensure that the boulders get moved to the edge of the buffer zone to finalize the restoration there.

**6:18 PM Cont. Notice of Intent: DEP # 168-0328, Adams Road (ROW) – guardrail replacement**

The Commission continued to review a Notice of Intent (NOI) permit application submitted by Ian Hodgdon c/o the Town of Greenfield Department of Public Works for the Right-of-Way (ROW) located between 128 and 144 Adams Road for the proposed installation of a concrete block retaining wall and reconstruction of existing guardrails. All disturbance associated with the proposed project will occur within the 25-foot No Disturb Zone to Bordering Vegetated Wetlands (BVW).

The GCC received a request from Alan Twarog, Greenfield Engineering Superintendent, to continue the public hearing until January 22, 2019 so that site plans can be obtained from a registered professional engineer.

**Motion made by Rachel Lindsay to continue the public hearing for DEP # 168-0328 for the Adams Road guardrail and retaining wall reconstruction to December 11, 2018**

**Motion seconded by Doug Cloutier**

**No further discussion – 4-0-0 – Motion Carries**

**6:24 PM Notice of Intent (NOI): 1417 Bernardston Road (Map R10-9) – solar array construction**

The Commission reviewed a Notice of Intent (NOI) permit application submitted by TRC Environmental Corporation c/o Kris Pitney of Pacifico Energy NA for the construction of a .75 megawatt direct current solar array on the property located at 1417 Bernardston Road (Assessor's Map R10-9) in Greenfield. There is 115,958 square feet of permanent disturbance proposed in the Buffer Zone to Bordering Vegetated Wetlands (BVW) and 958 square feet of permanent disturbance proposed in the 25-foot No Disturb Zone to Bordering Vegetated Wetlands (BVW) on the project site.

John Griffin opened the hearing and Kris Pitney of Pacifico Energy in addition to Maria Firstenberg and Max Lamson of TRC Environmental Corporation were present to propose the project to the GCC. The solar array is proposed to be constructed on 3.8 acres of land in Greenfield and all work is proposed in the Buffer Zone and/or 25-foot No Disturb Zone to Bordering Vegetated Wetlands, so there are no direct wetland impacts as a result of the project. In addition to the solar array, energy storage will also be constructed on site and is proposed to be located in the Buffer Zone. There are no Natural Heritage of Endangered Species designations on the project site, but there is a Potential Vernal Pool (PVP) on site. The primary access to the site is Bernardston Road, but there is an existing access road on the property that truncates the wetlands which will be improved to a width of 16-feet and used during construction; improvements to the access road will alter 958 square feet of the 25-foot No Disturb Zone. There is an existing structure and underground propane tanks that will be removed during construction. There is an intermittent stream that crosses under the existing access road through a series of culverts that connects up gradient and down gradient wetlands. There is a Potential Vernal Pool on the project site that is approximately 41-feet from the limit of disturbance. Approximately 2.66 acres of Buffer Zone is proposed to be cleared for the construction of the array and access road; some trees will be allowed to grow back on the site but will be maintained so they don't shade the solar array. A 10-foot grassed area is proposed to be maintained between the rows of solar panels, and the array will be contained by a security fence that will have a 6-inch critter gap at the bottom to allow for wildlife to move through the project site from the uplands to the wetlands. No fill is proposed to be imported or exported from the project site; all excavated materials will be reutilized during construction, and the stockpile of excavated material will move about the project site as construction progresses. A french drain, also known as a gravel diaphragm, will be constructed along the entire length of the



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improved access road adjacent to the wetlands to serve as a stormwater Best Management Practice (BMP). Some steep areas of the project site are proposed to be graded, but most of the property will be retained as a pervious surface to allow surface water to infiltrate into the ground. Erosion sediment controls in the form of a 12-inch silt sock will be installed at the limit of work proximal to the wetlands to protect them from adverse construction impacts.

John Griffin requested that a tree count be produced so that the GCC can evaluate the potential need to replant trees on site. Rachel Lindsay inquired as to the vegetation maintenance outside of the security fence due to the close proximity to the Buffer Zone; Kris Pitney stated that there probably won't be vegetation maintenance outside of the security fence, but if it is necessary it will not be conducted in the wetlands.

John Griffin asked the GCC if they believed it was necessary to obtain an outside consultant to assist in the review of the Notice of Intent, site plans and stormwater report. The Agent recommended obtaining an outside consultant to assist in project review.

**Motion made by Rachel Lindsay to retain an outside consultant to assist with permit review and to allow John Griffin and the Agent to approve the outside consultant on behalf of the GCC**

**Motion seconded by Erika LaForme**

**No further discussion – 3-0-1 – Motion Carries (Doug Cloutier abstained)**

The GCC requested that the applicant develop responses to the Notice of Intent comments provided by MassDEP, which had been received on November 27, 2018. The GCC scheduled a site visit with the applicant to occur on November 29, 2018. The applicant requested a continuance of the public hearing to December 11, 2018.

**Motion made by Erika LaForme to continue the public hearing for DEP # 168-0329 for the construction of a solar array at 1417 Bernardston Road**

**Motion seconded by Rachel Lindsay**

**No further discussion – 3-0-1 – Motion Carries (Doug Cloutier abstained)**

**8:02 PM Other Projects, Monitoring, Enforcements & Violations**

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**2. Violation updates – 8 Conway Dive, unauthorized fill & access to Green River:**

The Agent reported to the GCC that she had spoken with the property owner, David Kalinowski, regarding the Enforcement Order issued for violations of the MA Wetlands Protection Act and the Greenfield Wetlands Protection Ordinance on November 15, 2018. Mr. Kalinowski informed the Agent that he would not be obtaining a wetlands scientist to develop a restoration plan for the violations, but rather wished to propose restoration of the site himself, and requested the opportunity to speak with the GCC at the meeting tonight. Mr. He did not attend tonight's meeting. The Agent will follow up with MassDEP on how best to proceed with enforcement and will report back to the GCC.

**3. Discuss Scout Road Emergency Permit – culver replacement:**

The Agent reported that the culvert replacement at Scout Road was completed on November 9, 2018. The Agent required the DPW to install straw bales to stabilize the stream bank at the culvert outlet and also required the removal of additional road materials.

**4. Discuss Conway Drive sewer extension project:**



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The Agent received correspondence from Alan Twarog, Engineering Superintendent regarding a sewer extension project on Conway Drive, inquiring as to the requirement to submit a Notice of Intent for the project. The Agent informed Alan that the sewer extension project is exempt under the MA Wetlands Protection Act.

**5. Update: DEP # 168-0327 – Glenbrook Drive solar array construction:**

The Agent performed a pre-activity meeting on November 15, 2018 to inspect the erosion sediment controls and the invasive species flagging. The erosion sediment controls were installed according to the site plan, and the invasive species had been properly flagged for removal, so the Agent gave the approval to start construction.

**6. Discuss development of fee schedule:**

The Agent compiled fee schedules for towns of similar acreage and population for the GCC to review. The GCC instructed the Agent to compile the information in an excel spreadsheet for easier comparison across towns.

**Set Next Meeting Date:** Tuesday, December 11<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 8:08 PM**

**Motion made by Erika LaForme to adjourn at 8:08 PM**

**Motion seconded by Rachel Lindsay**

**No further discussion – 4-0-0 – Motion Carries**

Respectfully Submitted,  
Sarah A. Fortune  
Conservation Agent

John Griffin,  
Chair