



William F. Martin
Mayor

City of
GREENFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS
CONSERVATION COMMISSION

City Hall • 14 Court Square • Greenfield, MA 01301
Phone 413-772-1548 ext 3 • Fax 413-772-1309
Cassie.tragert@greenfield-ma.gov • www.greenfield-ma.gov

John Griffin, Chair
Rachel Lindsay, Vice Chair
Erika LaForme
Fletcher Harrington

Agent: Cassie Tragert

GREENFIELD CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes of Tuesday, November 26th, 2019
Greenfield Department of Planning and Development
20 Sanderson Street, 2nd Floor Conference Room
Greenfield MA 01301

*Approved
as written
12/13/19*

The meeting was called to order by John Griffin at 6:35 PM with the following members:

MEMBERS PRESENT: John Griffin, Chair
Rachel Lindsay, Vice Chair (6:40 Arrival)
Erika LaForme
Fletcher Harrington

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

ALSO PRESENT: Cassie Tragert (Agent)
Travis Drury
Efrosini Arvanitis

6:35 PM Administrative Matters: Approval of Meeting Minutes from 10/22/2019

Motion made by Erika LaForme to approve the meeting minutes from October 22nd, 2019 as written.
Motion seconded by Fletcher Harrington
No further discussion – 3-0-0 – Motion Carries (Rachel Lindsay absent)

6:38 PM Administrative Matters: Approval of Documents:

Certificate of Compliance: DEP # 168-033 – 121 Thayer Road Ext. – drainage improvements.

Agent Tragert and Erika LaForme attended a second site visit with Engineer Tony Wonseski on 11/6/2019. It was determined that the drainage inlet was lowered enough to sufficiently capture the flowing water as erosion around the area was eliminated and water was flowing out of the outlet.. The straw wattle crossing the path of flow was removed and matting added to the area which now appears to be stabilized.

Motion made by Fletcher Harrington to issue a Certificate of Compliance.
Motion seconded by Erika LaForme
No further discussion – 3-0-0 – Motion Carries (Rachel Lindsay absent)
(Rachel Lindsay arrived at 6:40PM)

Emergency Certification: Ratification of Emergency Certification issued 11/5/2019 to the City of Greenfield Department of Public Works for one beaver dam removal on Cherry Rum Brook.

Agent Tragert attended a site visit with City Engineer Superintendent, Alan Twarog, on 11/5/2019. As stated in a memorandum by Alan Twarog delivered on 10/31/2019, beavers had built another dam across the Cherry Rum Brook adjacent to the Cherry Rum Plaza. This was causing water to back up and inundate manholes of the existing 12-inch sewer interceptor running through this area. The City is under order by DEP to reduce infiltration and inflow into the sewer system. Due to the potential public health and safety issues concerning the sewer main as well as stopping infiltration and inflow of water into the sewer system, the DPW is requested the issuance of an Emergency Certification to allow DPW staff to breach



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the dam. The Emergency Certification ordered that the dam would be breached with an excavator from the bank in a slow and controlled manner with no downstream impacts. They would avoid damage to any wetland vegetation and not enter the water with any motorized equipment. The Applicant shall notify the Conservation Commission when the work is completed.

Motion made by John Griffin to ratify the Emergency Certification.

Motion seconded by Erika LaForme

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

6:44 PM Public Meeting: Request for Determination of Applicability: associated with DEP # 168-0279 – Athens Pizza; 105 Mohawk Trail

The Commission reviewed a Request for Determination of Applicability for work associated with DEP # 168-0279 – Athens Pizza; 105 Mohawk Trail. The original Order of Conditions was issued on 11/24/2010 and has since expired. The applicant sought a Determination of Applicability in regard to the construction of a new restaurant with consideration of the expired original Order of Conditions. The conditions from the now expired Order of Conditions were re-listed as the Special Conditions for the Determination of Applicability. The Special Conditions differ from the original now expired Order of Conditions in that they changed three parts. 1.) Condition 22 part D now only requires that the applicant remove any new invasive vegetation that emerge within the scope of work during construction and for two growing seasons post construction. 2.) Condition 30 now no longer requires any reporting to the Conservation Commission while still maintaining that inspection shall still be conducted weekly, after major rain events, and at seasonal transitional periods. 3.) Condition 47 was added which states that a pre-construction meeting with the Conservation Commission/Agent shall be conducted before work on the rain gardens/permeable surfaces begins at which time the Applicant, Site Foreman, and all others supervising work on the property shall sign an Affidavit confirming they have and understand the Special Conditions. Finally, the Applicant was reminded that they will need to come before the Commission once all the work is completed to Request for a Certificate of Compliance in order to remove the expired Order of Conditions from the property deed.

Motion made by John Griffin to issue a Negative Determination, Type 3 stating the work described in the request is within the Buffer Zone, as defined in the regulations, but will not alter an Area subject to protection under the Act. Therefore, said work does not require the filing of a Notice of Intent, subject to the following conditions attached for DEP # 168-0279 – Athens Pizza; 105 Mohawk Trail.

Motion seconded by Fletcher Harrington

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

7:05 PM Enforcement Updates & Other Business

➤ Enforcement updates

- 637 Colrain Road (Map R35-7) – unauthorized filling of wetlands.
 - No updates.
- 127 Thayer Road Ext. (Map 42-6A) – removal of BVW.
 - Due to wording of original Order of Conditions, property owner is not out of compliance and the Enforcement Order will be lifted by letter to the property owner following a vote by the Commission. Agent Tragert drafted a letter for the property owner which was approved by the Commission upon review.



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Motion made by John Griffin to remove the Enforcement Order against 127 Thayer Road.

Motion seconded by Erika LaForme

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

- 270 Turner Falls Road (Map R04-14) – unauthorized site grading and vegetation removal.
 - Agent Tragert was able to contact the property owner and set up a site visit however had to cancel. Agent Tragert will be organizing another visit in the near future.
 - 8 Conway Drive (Map 49-24) – unauthorized fill of Riverfront Area.
 - Agent Tragert had a meeting with Mark Stinson on 11/26/2019 and he informed that he would be in contact with Massachusetts Department of Transportation about their abutting property where violations may be occurring. The option of legal action was discussed though was discouraged due to financial limitations. Timeline for action not yet established with DEP. Agent Tragert will see if other violations are occurring with other City Boards.
 - Bears Den Road, Highland Park (Map R01-17) – outstanding replication work for riverfront area development.
 - Monitoring reporting is due to the Commission. Rachel Lindsay spoke with primary monitor, Bill Lattrel, and he will be contacting Agent Tragert with future plans.
- Discuss draft fee schedule and current Conservation Commission Budget
- There are currently no additional fees the City requires in addition to what the State requires for filing any permits. A revised draft fee schedule was decided on and Agent Tragert will finalize the document as well as conduct research into the process for officially adopting it.
 - Reviews of current available funds to the Conservation Commission as well as all open associated accounts were conducted. The Commission considered ways in which funds could be utilized to increase efficiency as well as increase open space support. Agent Tragert will create an inventory of what equipment we currently have and create an inventory of all project opportunities for the future.
- Discuss Meeting schedule and times.
- After reviewing the frequency of meetings for other cities with similar populations, it was decided that the schedule will not change and it will remain the discretion of the Conservation Agent to call for a cancellation based off of the amount of actionable items on each agenda. The meetings will officially occur at 6:30PM going forward as well.

8:05 PM Project Monitoring & Site Visit Scheduling

➤ **Other Business**

- Agent Tragert will establish a Google Drive account for the sharing of relevant documents electronically with Commission members.
- Agent Tragert will create a list of all projects with open Order of Conditions for the Commission's review.
- Bill Lattrel has done an unofficial look at the Highland Road restoration, and has stated that he will conduct future monitoring in the Spring of 2020 free of charge. He has also offered to provide training to Agent Tragert in vegetation monitoring.
- A ditch recently developed by the bank of the Green River at Wedgewood Gardens which exposed unused gas utility lines. A site visit was conducted with Alan Twarog on 11/22/2019 in which it was determined that only barriers would be erected to prevent public access and further plans to stabilize the area would take place in the Spring after the submittal of a Notice of Intent. No other action (such as fill) was authorized by the Commission at that time. John Griffin reports that it appears some unauthorized fill has been placed in the ditch since that site



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visit. Agent Tragert will reach out to Alan Twarog to get clarification on what has occurred and pursue possible enforcement.

➤ **Set Next Meeting Date: Tuesday, January 14th, 2019**

Meeting Adjourned at 8:31 PM

Motion made by John Griffin to adjourn at 8:31 PM

Motion seconded by Rachel Lindsay

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Cassie Tragert
Conservation Agent

John Griffin,
Chair