



William F. Martin
Mayor

City of
GREENFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS
CONSERVATION COMMISSION

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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, February 26th, 2019
Greenfield Department of Planning and Development
20 Sanderson Street, Greenfield MA 01301

The meeting was called to order by John Griffin at 6:04 PM with the following members:

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Doug Cloutier

ALSO PRESENT: Maria Firstenberg; TRC, 650 Suffolk Street, Suite 200, Lowell, MA 01854
Michael Nelson, Franklin County Agricultural Society, LLC; 87 Wisdom Way, Greenfield, MA 01301
Andrew Steiner, SVE Associates; 439 West River Road, Brattleboro, VT 05302
Anthony Wonseski, Jr. SVE Associates; 439 West River Road, Brattleboro, VT 05302
Fred Steiner, Franklin County Agricultural Society, LLC; 87 Wisdom Way, Greenfield, MA 01301
Lincoln Fish, Baystate Forestry Service; 2342 Main Street, Athol, MA 01331

6:04 PM **Administrative Matters: Approval of Minutes from 11/27/18, 12/11/18, 1/8/19, 1/22/19**

Motion made by Rachel Lindsay to approve the minutes from November 27, 2018 as revised

Motion seconded by Erika LaForme

No further discussion – 3-0-0 – Motion Carries

Motion made by Erika LaForme to approve the minutes from December 11, 2018 as written

Motion seconded by Rachel Lindsay

No further discussion – 3-0-0 – Motion Carries

Motion made by Rachel Lindsay to approve the minutes from January 8, 2019 as written

Motion seconded by Erika LaForme

No further discussion – 3-0-0 – Motion Carries

Motion made by Rachel Lindsay to table the approval of the minutes from January 22, 2019 until March 12, 2019

Motion seconded by Erika LaForme

No further discussion – 3-0-0 – Motion Carries

6:12 PM **Administrative Matters: Review Correspondence**

1. MACC Annual Environmental Conference:

The Massachusetts Association of Conservation Commissions (MACC) is holding their Annual Environmental Conference on Saturday, March 2nd, 2019 at the College of the Holy Cross in Worcester, MA. All Conservation Commissioners who are interested are welcome to attend.



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2. **2019 MA Open Space Conference on 4/27/19:**

The 2019 Massachusetts Open Space Conference is being held on April 27, 2019 at Mount Wachusett Community College in Gardner, MA. Registration is now open and the conference is free to attend.

6:14 PM Administrative Matters: Other Business (New/Old)

1. **270 Turners Falls Road:**

There was no update on this agenda item.

2. **Review & discuss development of fee schedule:**

There was no update on this agenda item.

6:14 PM Administrative Matters: Chair, Agent & Member Reports

Rachel Lindsay reported she observed a large rubble pile within the Buffer Zone to the intermittent stream and a lack of erosion sediment controls at the project site at 125 Mohawk Trail, DEP # 168-0323. The Agent had also observed that the DEP file number had not been posted at the job site in addition to the rubble pile and the lack of erosion sediment controls, so she contacted the property owner and met the contactor on site to discuss the installation of straw wattles until the ground was no longer frozen and the approved erosion controls could be installed.

6:15 PM Notice of Intent (NOI): DEP # 168-0331 – Rear Linwood Street (Assessor's Map 33-16C), slope failure

The Commission will review a Notice of Intent (NOI) permit application submitted by Anthony Wonseski of SVE Associates c/o the Franklin County Agricultural Society, Inc. for proposed work to repair and stabilize a failed slope and to install a stormwater system on the property located at Rear Linwood Street (Assessor's Map 33-16C). Disturbance associated with the project as proposed is located within Bordering Vegetated Wetlands, their Buffer Zone, and the 25-foot No Disturb Zone.

John Griffin opened the public hearing and Tony Wonseski of SVE Associates was present to describe the project to the GCC, stating that serious slope failure on the Franklin County Fairgrounds property has caused significant sedimentation of wetland resource areas and is posing a safety risk to private property on Linwood Street. The project proposes to mitigate the slope failure by repairing the failed slope, installing a storm drain system to convey the water to the bottom of the repaired slope, and planting fast growing vegetation on the slope to stabilize it. There is a preexisting drainage swale at the top of the slope that was constructed two (2) years ago to contain the stormwater and prevent it from discharging over the slope, but the soils on site are mostly sand and are extremely saturated due to the high levels of precipitation experienced in the recent months.

The applicant proposes to repair the slope by regrading it to have a 2:1 slope that will be more stable than the near 1:1 preexisting slope. The applicant also proposes to install a stormwater management system with three (3) catch basins at the top of the slope to capture the stormwater and convey it through a system of pipes and sub drains on the slope to allow the water to permeate the soils rather than sheet flow over the ground surface. The catch basin at the worst slope failure area will discharge to a level spreader to control the water velocities and prevent further erosion of the area. The entire site will be covered with straw matting to prevent erosion of the newly repaired slope, and fast growing shrubs will be planted through the straw matting to further stabilize the slope. The applicant also proposes to install erosion sediment controls in the form of silt fence and straw wattles about half way down the repaired slope and then again at the base to protect the Bordering Vegetated Wetlands from constructed-related impacts.

The installation of the stormwater system will result in 420 square feet of permanent impacts to the Bordering Vegetated Wetlands on the project site, so the applicant has proposed to construct a 996 square foot wetland replication area that will be monitored for two (2) growing seasons by Bill Lattrell, PWS of Lattrell Ecological Consulting, LLC who will provide reports to the Commission about the success of the wetland replication area. The wetland replication area will be surrounded by a



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double row of silt fence and straw wattles to protect the wetland replication area and surrounding wetlands from erosion and sedimentation. Although the stormwater system will result in permanent wetland impacts, the stormwater system should also prevent the continual sedimentation of the Bordering Vegetated Wetlands at the base of the slope off Linwood Street, so it is an improvement over current conditions. The applicant proposes to hand remove the sediment from the wetlands off Lindwood Street as an additional part of this project.

Due to the significant cost of the proposed stormwater management system, the applicant has proposed a temporary fix to the slope failure issues that is less expensive to construct. The alternate system includes the installation of one (1) of the three (3) catch basins at the location of the most significant slope failure to convey the stormwater to a level spreader and plunge pool that will be constructed in the area of the future wetland replication area. Swamp matting or timber matting will be used to gain access to the area through the wetlands to construct the level spreader and plunge pool. All of the materials used in the interim slope failure mitigation solution can be reused when the funding becomes available to install the final stormwater. The Conservation Agent stated that she would like the temporary plan to mitigate the slope failure to be reviewed by MassDEP prior to the issuance of an Order of Conditions.

Rachel Lindsay required the applicant to provide a planting plan with a 1:1 ratio for the replacement of trees removed from the project site to construct the stormwater management system, stating that the proposed planting plan appears sparse and that more trees should be integrated into the plan to contribute to the slope stabilization.

John Griffin opened the hearing for public comment, and no public wished to comment on the proposed project.

The applicant requested a continuance of the public hearing until March 12, 2019 so that MassDEP could review the temporary slope failure mitigation plan and so that a planting plan could be created.

Motion made by Rachel Lindsay to continue the public hearing for DEP # 168-0331 for the slope failure mitigation project at Rear Linwood Street until March 12, 2019

Motion seconded by Erika LaForme

No further discussion – 3-0-0 – Motion Carries

7:02 PM Notice of Intent (NOI): DEP # 168-0332 – 57 Forgey Way (Assessor’s Map R05-28M), slope failure

The Commission will review a Notice of Intent (NOI) permit application submitted by Anthony Wonseski of SVE Associates c/o Life Skills, Inc. for proposed work to repair and stabilize a failed slope and to install a stormwater system on the property located at 57 Forgey Way (Assessor’s Map R05-28M). Disturbance associated with the project as proposed is located within the Buffer Zone and the 25-foot No Disturb Zone to Bordering Vegetated Wetlands.

John Griffin opened the hearing and Anthony Wonseski, Jr. of SVE Associates was present to describe the project to the GCC, stating that the applicant proposes to repair and stabilize the failed slope on the project site while also installing a stormwater management system to protect the repaired slope from further destabilization. Tony Wonseski explained that stormwater from the northern part of the property is directed to a vegetated swale that runs along the northern edge of the parking area and conveys stormwater away from the parking area to the top of a slope, which then discharges over the top of the slope and flows to an intermittent stream that is an unnamed tributary to Fall Brook. As a result of considerable rainfall last summer and fall, the slope has failed presenting a safety concern to the property and threatening existing site improvements.

The project proposes to re-grade and reuse the preexisting drainage swale on site while also re-grading the failed slope to have a 2:1 slope. A deep sump catch basin is proposed to be installed at the top of the slope which will collect stormwater and



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convey it through a pipe to a deep sump drainage manhole that will be installed near the toe of the repaired slope. The stormwater will discharge to the wetland and intermittent stream from the deep sump drainage manhole through a pipe to a flared end section, which will consist of rip rap installed over a geotextile fabric, to control the stormwater and reinforce the toe of the slope. The pipe from the deep sump drainage manhole will be constructed through a proposed retaining wall and fence that will keep people out of the area. The proposed location of the flared end section is 2-feet from the edge of the delineated Bordering Vegetated Wetlands. After the stormwater management system is installed, the repaired slope will be loamed and seeded to further stabilize the slope; no plantings were proposed due to the configuration of the pipes for the stormwater management system. All work will be conducted from the top of the slope, and no construction equipment will operate on the slope or within wetland resource areas.

Construction of these improvements will not alter the Bordering Vegetated Wetlands but work is required within the 25-foot No Disturb Zone as regulated under the Greenfield Wetlands Protection Ordinance. Tony Wonseski requested a waiver of the 25-foot No Disturb Zone regulation under the Greenfield Wetlands Protection Ordinance at this time.

Erosion sediment control measures will include the installation of a double row of silt fence and straw bale or fiber roll for perimeter protection at the toe of the slope. Straw blankets will be utilized on the proposed slopes to mitigation potential erosion. The erosion sediment control measures will protect the wetland resource areas from potential construction-related impacts.

John Griffin opened the hearing for public comment, and no public wished to comment on the proposed project.

Motion made by Rachel Lindsay to close the public hearing for DEP # 168-0332 for the slope failure mitigation at 57 Forgey Way

Motion seconded by Erika LaForme

No further discussion – 3-0-0 – Motion Carries

Motion made by Erika LaForme to issue the Order of Conditions with Special Conditions for DEP # 168-0332 for the slope failure mitigation at 57 Forgey Way

Motion seconded by Rachel Lindsay

No further discussion – 3-0-0 – Motion Carries

Motion made by Erika LaForme to grant a waiver of the 25-foot No Disturb Zone regulation under the Greenfield Wetlands Protection Ordinance for DEP # 168-0332 for the slope failure mitigation at 57 Forgey Way

Motion seconded by Rachel Lindsay

No further discussion – 3-0-0 – Motion Carries

7:24 PM Cont. NOI: DEP # 168-0328 – Adams Road (ROW), guardrail replacement

The Commission will continue 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 retraining 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 applicant requested a continuance of the public hearing until March 12, 2019.



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Motion made by Erika LaForme to continue the public hearing for DEP # 168-0328 for the Adams Road guardrail replacement project until March 12, 2019

Motion seconded by Rachel Lindsay

No further discussion – 3-0-0 – Motion Carries

7:24 PM Cont. NOI: DEP # 168-0329—1417 Bernardston Road (Map R10-9) – solar array construction

The Commission will continue to review 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.

The applicant requested a continuance of the public hearing until March 12, 2019.

Motion made by Rachel Lindsay to continue the public hearing for DEP # 168-0329 for the solar project at 1417 Bernardston Road until March 12, 2019

Motion seconded by Erika LaForme

No further discussion – 3-0-0 – Motion Carries

7:26 PM Other Projects, Monitoring, Enforcements & Violations

1. Discuss Griswold/GTD Forest Stewardship Plan:

Lincoln Fish, forester for Bay State Forestry Service was present to discuss the process in which to update the Forest Stewardship Plan for the Griswold/GTD Conservation Area, which expired on 12/31/2018. The Forest Stewardship Plan was substantially amended by Lincoln in 2016 to incorporate the “Foresters for the Birds” harvesting practices as a result of grant funding through this program, so he suggested that the Forest Stewardship Plan simply be re-submitted to the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) for approval. The GCC expressed interest in conducting a site inspection with Lincoln during May which coincides with bird breeding season to investigate whether or not the bird-related forestry activities have resulted in the presence of said birds on the property. Lincoln also suggested that the GCC could observe for invasive plant species and evaluate the condition of the trails to determine if any additional work needs to occur there. The Agent will contact Lincoln to schedule the inspection during April and will report back to the GCC.

2. Highland Park slope and wetland restoration – review training and education offer:

The GCC received an offer from Bill Lattrell of Lattrell Ecological Consulting, LLC on February 7, 2019 offering his services to the City of Greenfield for the Highland Park parking area slope mitigation and wetland restoration project. Bill’s proposal is to train the Agent to instruct and monitor the slope mitigation and wetland restoration work at Highland Park. The GCC reviewed the offer and decided that no motion was necessary on this agenda item.

3. Violation updates:

a. 26 Clark Street (Map 107-27) – tree cutting in wetlands/buffer zone:

The Agent issued an Enforcement Notice on 1/22/2019 for possible tree cutting in wetlands and their buffer zones at 26 Clark Street. The property owner contacted the Agent in response to the Enforcement Notice and informed her that Nartowicz Tree Service had moved to one of the buildings on the property and has been storing excess wood, wood chips and tree care equipment at the property. The GCC is familiar with Kyle Nartowicz, owner of the company, because he assisted in the Green River Cleanup at Murphy Park in the fall of 2018. Regardless, the Agent required the



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property owner to inform Mr. Nartowicz to store all tree harvesting equipment and refuse on the pavement on the property to limit impacts to the adjacent wetland resource areas.

b. **637 Colrain Road – unauthorized filling of wetlands:**

The Agent has been informed of additional violations at 637 Colrain Road, and has attempted to contact the property owner to schedule a site visit but the contact information she had on had was no longer valid. The Agent is currently working to assess the amount of alteration to the Bordering Vegetated Wetlands on the project site using Google Earth and historical aerial imagery so that she can integrate that information into an Enforcement Notice. The Agent will update the GCC when she has finalized the assessment of the wetland alteration.

c. **DEP # 168-0323 – 125 Mohawk trail:**

The Agent conducted an inspection to the project site at 125 Mohawk Trail on February 7, 2019 and observed several administrative violations of the Order of Conditions for the project including: no posted DEP file number, no installation of erosion sediment controls according to the final approved site plans, and the Agent was never contacted to conduct a pre-activity meeting prior to the commencement of work on site. The Agent contacted the applicant to relay the discovery of these violations, and required that they be addressed immediately. The Agent conducted a follow-up inspection on February 14, 2019 with the contractor to observe the posted DEP file number and to discuss the installation of the erosion sediment controls in the form of straw wattles to protect the intermittent stream from construction-related impacts, specifically from the large rubble pile within the 25-foot No Disturb Zone to the stream; the Agent required the portion of the rubble pile closest to the stream to be moved immediately closer to the middle of the project site. The Agent allowed the straw wattles to be installed as interim erosion sediment controls due to the fact that the ground was still frozen, but reminded the contractor that the final approved erosion sediment controls need to be installed as soon as the ground is no longer frozen.

4. **Schedule site visits – Requests for Certificates of Compliance (COC): DEP # 168-0324 & 0326, 99 & 115 Verde Drive:**

The GCC received Requests for Certificates of Compliance for DEP # 168-0324 & DEP # 168-0326 for the construction of single family homes at 99 and 115 Verde Drive. The GCC instructed the Agent to inform the applicant that COC Requests will be revisited in May when site inspections can be conducted in the absence of snow.

Set Next Meeting Date: Tuesday, March 12th, 2019 at 6:00 PM in the Greenfield Department of Planning and Development, located at 20 Sanderson Street, Second Floor Conference Room in Greenfield.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:01 PM

Motion made by Rachel Lindsay to adjourn at 8:01 PM

Motion seconded by Erika LaForme

No further discussion – 3-0-0 – Motion Carries

Respectfully Submitted,
Sarah A. Fortune
Conservation Agent

John Griffin,
Chair