



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
sarah.brodeur@greenfield-ma.gov • www.greenfield-ma.gov

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

Agent: Sarah Brodeur

GREENFIELD CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Meeting Minutes of Tuesday, April 10th, 2018
Greenfield Department of Planning and Development
114 Main Street, Greenfield MA 01301

The meeting was called to order by Vice Chair Rachel Lindsay at 7:02 PM with the following members:

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Timothy Mosher, Chair

ALSO PRESENT: William F. Martin, 14 Court Square, Greenfield MA 01301

7:02 PM Administrative Matters: Approval of Minutes – March 27, 2018

Motion made by Erika LaForme to approve the minutes from March 27, 2018 as amended

Motion seconded by John Griffin

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

7: 05 PM Review Mail & Phone Messages: I-91 Culvert Rehabilitation

The GCC received a letter from MassDOT – Highway Division on March 27, 2018 pertaining to the water quality certification for a project to replace the slip-lining in a culvert through which a perennial stream flows through approximately 1.25 miles northwest of the MA-2/I-91 Interchange in Greenfield. The letter was a copy of the original correspondence which was dated August 17, 2017. The letter stated that, "...it has been determined that there is reasonable assurance the proposed project will be conducted in a manner which will not violate applicable water quality standards (310 CMR 4.00) and other applicable requirements of state law." There was no specific information included in the letter regarding the construction timelines and proposed start date for the project, and no specific information pertaining to the precise location of the project. The GCC instructed the Agent to contact the Project Manager to gain more information about the culvert rehabilitation and to schedule a site visit.

7: 10 PM Public Inquiries: 22 Conway Drive – road construction

The Conservation Agent received an inquiry from the property owner at 6 River Road regarding road construction adjacent to the Green River at 22 Conway Drive on April 3, 2018. The property owner was concerned about the impacts to wildlife habitat as a result of the road construction and its proximity to the Green River, but had heard that the property at 22 Conway Drive was going to be converted into an organic farm, thus gaining agricultural exemptions from the Wetlands Protection Act and Rivers Protection Act. The inquirer also informed the Agent that the road was constructed at night, and that farther down the road there is a device that could possibly be used to pull water out of the river. The Agent proceeded to conduct a site visit to 6 River Road on April 5, 2018 to document the road construction. Although commercial agriculture is exempt from the Wetlands Protection Act and Rivers Protection Act, the Agent informed the GCC that those exemptions are only granted for bona fide farms that have a USDA Farm Plan. The Agent stated that she will follow-up on this inquiry by contacting the property owner and discussing the issue with MassDEP.



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
sarah.brodeur@greenfield-ma.gov • www.greenfield-ma.gov

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

Agent: Sarah Brodeur

7:17 PM Other Business

Rachel Lindsay inquired as to the possibility of resuming the recording of GCC meetings for documentation purposes. She informed the GCC that she engaged in a discussion regarding this matter at the Massachusetts Association of Conservation Commissions (MACC) Annual Environmental Conference on March 3, 2018 in which other commissioners expressed their support of recording meetings and described situations in which meeting recordings have been helpful to resolve discrepancies about the official record of the meeting.

The Agent had not been recording meetings since she started working for the GCC on February 27, 2018 but stated that she realizes the value in having additional accounts of meetings, in addition to her hand written notes for producing meeting minutes. She will resume recording GCC meetings at the next meeting on Tuesday, April 24, 2018.

8:04 PM Other Projects, Monitoring, Enforcements & Violations

1. DEP #168-0274 – Leyden Woods redevelopment:

The Conservation Agent was contacted by Frank Holmes of Stantec on April 3, 2018 for the purpose of receiving a Certificate of Compliance (COC) for the Leyden Woods subdivision project located off of Leyden Road. Frank Holmes informed the Agent that there had been two (2) Orders of Conditions (OOC) issued for the project, but only one (1) of those Orders still requires a COC. He stated that Stantec had applied for a COC on November 13, 2017 which was denied by the GCC on December 19, 2017 due to six (6) different areas with erosion issues throughout the project site. Frank Holmes wanted to schedule a site visit with the Agent and members of the Commission to review the areas in question and verify the scope of work needed to address the areas of erosion.

The Agent conducted a site visit on April 10, 2018 with Rachel Lindsay, Doug Cloutier and Hilary Buskirk of Stantec. Hilary suggested that each area should be raked, aerated, loamed and seeded to address the erosion issues. The Agent and Commissioners agreed that the proposed work would not be sufficient to mitigate the erosion due to the topography and soils of the areas in question, and suggested that native wetland shrubs or grasses be planted in addition to raking, aerating, loaming and seeding each area because plants will be more effective at slowing the flow of water and capturing soils. The Agent instructed Hilary to provide her with a complete planting plan prior to the start of work in these areas so that she may approve the vegetation selections, and asked for an as-built site plan for the project so that she may determine permit compliance.

2. DEP # 168-0318 – 36 Log Plain Road solar array:

The Conservation Agent invited the contractors from Burns McDonnell who are involved with the solar array project at 36 Log Plain Road to attend the next meeting of the GCC on April 24, 2018 per the request of the Commission. The contractors are available to attend the meeting and will provide the GCC with update site plans for construction, as the file currently only has site plans for permitting purposes only. The Agent will also schedule a site visit with the Commissioners and contractors, which is to be determined.

3. DPW Bundled Notice of Intent (NOI) – road maintenance:

The Agent was approached by the Town Engineer who expressed interest in developing a bundled Notice of Intent (NOI) for regular road maintenance, which will help streamline permitting efforts and alleviate any possible enforcement situations in the future. The Agent will work with the DPW to develop the permit in the coming months, which will go through the public meeting process to gain approval by the GCC.



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
sarah.brodeur@greenfield-ma.gov • www.greenfield-ma.gov

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

Agent: Sarah Brodeur

4. Highland Pond & Park – possible dredging project:

The Agent has learned of a possible future dredging project at Highland Pond & Park, which has gained momentum due to the interest of residents to restore the pond to its past recreational state. The pond has historically been used for ice skating during the winter, but has become too shallow in recent years to enable the pond to freeze due to sediment inputs over time from the surrounding landscape.

The Agent met with the MassDEP Wetlands Circuit Rider, Mark Stinson, and the Director of Planning & Development, Eric Twarog, to discuss the feasibility, cost and permitting requirements of executing such a project. Given that recreation is not one of the eight (8) interests of the Wetlands Protection Act, there is no limited project provision for recreation, meaning that the project would have to adhere to the limit of 5,000 square-feet of disturbance to resource areas, which could require that the project be segmented over time to comply with the disturbance threshold. Dredging is a costly activity, in the approximate range of 1 to 5 million dollars, but some of the expense could be alleviated by conducting the work in-house by the Department of Public Works rather than contracting it out to another company, given that the DPW has the appropriate machinery for the job. The project would also require permits such as a 401 Water Quality Certification through the Clean Water Act and a 404 permit through the Army Corps of Engineers, and obtaining an Environmental Notification Form (ENF) through the Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act (MEPA).

The Agent also informed the GCC that she met with a reporter on April 5, 2018 from the Recorder who was interested in writing an article discussing the ecological impacts of dredging Highland Pond. She informed the reporter of the potential ecological impacts and benefits from dredging the pond, which range from total mortality to aquatic and semi-aquatic organisms (fish, invertebrates, reptiles, and wetland vegetation) to the mitigation of the eutrophic (high nutrient-loading) state of the pond by removing the organic sediments that have accumulated over time. She stated that dredging would only be a temporary solution to the problem that without addressing the sediment inputs from the surrounding landscape, that it is likely that the pond would become once again shallow in the future. She suggested that a watershed study of Highland Pond would be an appropriate course of action that would effectively address the sources of sediment and stormwater that are contributing to a shallow pond environment.

5. Update – Green River pumping station dredging:

The Agent received correspondence from Mark Holley, the Greenfield Water Facilities Superintendent, with updates for the Green River pumping station dredging project on April 4, 2018, which stated that all of the dredged material had been removed from the site and that the area will be loamed and seeded as soon as the weather permits.

6. Update – 142 Mohawk Trail Determination of Applicability (DOA):

The Agent received revised site plans from Synergy Environmental, Inc. per the Special Order of Conditions issued with the Determination of Applicability (DOA) for the work to upgrade the underground fuel dispensing systems at 142 Mohawk Trail. The revised site plans depict the erosion sediment controls on site per discussions of resource area protection at the site visit and public meeting for this project on March 27, 2018.

The Agent informed the GCC that she had revised the Special Order of Conditions per a discussion with project representative Chris Horan of Synergy Environmental, Inc. relative to the feasibility of Special Condition # 13 which stated that, “The Representative shall submit an Operation and Maintenance Plan for trash and snow removal to the Greenfield Conservation Commission prior to the end of construction activities to dictate trash and snow removal frequencies and procedures. Snow shall be removed from the project site to prevent unforeseen impacts to wetland resource



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
sarah.brodeur@greenfield-ma.gov • www.greenfield-ma.gov

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

Agent: Sarah Brodeur

areas". Chris Horan expressed his concern about snow removal from the site, stating that it would be unfeasible, but that the Applicant has no objection to developing an Operation and Maintenance Plan for trash and snow removal. The Agent agreed that requiring the removal of snow would be unfeasible, and revised Special Condition # 13 to state, "The Representative shall submit an Operation and Maintenance Plan for trash and snow removal to the Greenfield Conservation Commission prior to the end of construction activities to dictate trash and snow removal frequencies and procedures".

Motion made by Erika LaForme to approve the revised site plans depicting the erosion sediment control methods for the work to occur at 142 Mohawk Trail

Motion seconded by Doug Cloutier

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

7. Update – 8 River Road erosion issue:

The Agent received a phone call from the property owner of 8 River Road on April 4, 2018 stating that she was unable to obtain a structural engineer or wetland scientist that could develop a solution to the erosion issues at her property. The Agent had not had time to respond to the latest correspondence, but informed the GCC that she will contact the property owner prior to the next meeting of the GCC on April 24, 2018.

8. Free MACC/MassDEP Regional Conservation Commission meetings:

The Agent was informed of regional conservation commission meetings hosted by MACC and MassDEP developed to help Conservation Commissions address common questions and concerns. The Western Region meeting will occur on Thursday, April 19th from 6:30-8:30 PM in at the Hadley Senior Center. The Agent encouraged the Commissioners to attend the meeting if they are available.

7:48 PM Discussion with William F. Martin, Mayor

Mayor Bill Martin attended the meeting to inform the GCC of future projects that will involve wetlands permits. He stated that he had recently met with the Commissioner of MassDEP regarding the construction of an anaerobic digester in the floodplain at the Mohawk Meadows Golf Course, due to the closing of various waste disposal sites and the expense associated with transporting waste to the closest disposal facility. He will coordinate a meeting with the DPW, the GCC and MassDEP to initiate this project. Mayor Martin proceeded to inform the GCC that the old Greenfield Hotel on MA-2 is being redeveloped and will consist of a new hotel and retail spaces; and that the Valley Steel Stamp company will begin construction within the next few months. He stated that there is also a 17-acre site on Laurel Street with contaminated soils that will be addressed in the near future, and that a 10,000 square-foot facility will be constructed in the Industrial Park off of Adams Road. Mayor Martin also invited the Agent to attend a Town Council subcommittee meeting for the Highland Pond dredging project.

The Mayor asked the GCC if there were any specific projects that he should be aware of, and Rachel Lindsay proceeded to inform him of the bundled Notice of Intent for road maintenance that will be developed by the Agent and the DPW in the coming months, and explained that the purpose of such a permit is to streamline the permitting process and avoid possible violations.

Set Next Meeting Date: Tuesday, April 24th, 2018 at 7:00 PM in the Greenfield Department of Planning and Development, located at 114 Main Street.



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
sarah.brodeur@greenfield-ma.gov • www.greenfield-ma.gov

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

Agent: Sarah Brodeur

Meeting Adjourned at 7:59 PM

Motion made by John Griffin to adjourn at 7:59 PM

Motion seconded by Doug Cloutier

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

Respectfully Submitted,
Sarah Brodeur
Conservation Agent

Timothy Mosher,
Chair