

CONSERVATION COMMISSION



Town of GREENFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS
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GREENFIELD CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Minutes of January 27, 2009

7:00 p.m.

Greenfield Police Station
321 High Street

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chair Alex Haro with the following members:

PRESENT: Alex Haro, Chair; Tim Mosher, Vice-chair; Thomas DeHoyos; Dee Letourneau

ABSENT: None

Also present: Ralph Kunkel, Conservation Agent; consultants for the applicant.

Approval of Minutes: January 13, 2009

MOTION: Moved by Letourneau, seconded by Mosher, and voted 4-0 to approve the minutes of January 13, 2008 as amended.

Public Meetings/Hearings:

7:05 p.m. Northrop Grumman Space and Mission Systems – to review a Request for Determination of Applicability for property located at 11-17 Meridian Street (Assessors Map 19 Lot 47A) to determine whether the work depicted on the plans is subject to the jurisdiction of the Wetlands Protection Act.

Nathan Jones, Project Manager with Camp Dresser & McKee (CDM), and Magdalena Lofstedt, Wetlands Scientist with CDM represented the applicant.

Jones gave a brief history of the site and then reviewed the project, pointing out on the site plan the areas that had been impacted by cutting oil from the swarf. Jones also showed an area where lead was found and said that there was no record of the GTD having used lead, and that they were unsure of the source of the lead. Jones also showed on the site plan the wetlands that had been delineated by Lofstedt. Jones showed where borings would be pushed in with a Geoprobe in the vicinity surrounding the site of lead contamination. Jones said only three additional wells would be put in for further studies of the soil profile and that they would be within the 25' No Disturb Zone.

Haro asked if the work would be done with a track vehicle. Jones replied in the affirmative, adding that there would be two different rigs used, one for each method, but that both were rubber track mounted. Haro asked Jones what his time frame would be. Jones said they proposed to do the work in March once the snow pack had melted.

Letourneau stated that she wanted to confirm that this was a state mandated cleanup. Jones and Haro replied in the affirmative. Letourneau stated that her concern was with the additional wells that would be placed in the No Disturb Zone. After a brief discussion, Jones stated that since the three borings proposed would be for profiling, that they could be pulled across the line and installed outside the No Disturb Zone. Jones added that wells would be needed in the No Disturb Zone, only if the probes showed that the lead contamination extended to that area.

DeHoyos asked about dewatering. Haro and Jones stated that only during the excavation would dewatering take place and that would be addressed in the discussion on the Notice of Intent. DeHoyos asked how many probes would be done. Jones said they would do as many as they could do in two days, probably 20.

Haro asked what would happen to the soil from the borings. Jones replied that they could stockpile the soil adjacent to the parking lot. Mosher suggested stockpiling the contaminated soil in the hot zone.

Letourneau asked for clarification of the number of proposed Geoprobe borings and pointed out that the RDA stated there would be up to 30 in 3 days, but that Jones in his answer to DeHoyos had said probably 20 in two days and that the third day would be used to install the 3 borings with casings. Letourneau asked if this change had been included in the text of the RDA or the narrative. Jones replied that it had not. Kunkel suggested that Jones write an amended narrative and submit a copy to the Commission and the DEP.

MOTION: Moved by Mosher, seconded by Letourneau, and voted 4-0 that while this is an Exempt Activity due to 310 CMR 10.02(2)(b)g, because of the number of Geoprobos and the nature of the activity, the Conservation Commission has asked the Applicant to adhere to the following special conditions:

- 1. The applicant shall submit to the Commission and to DEP an amended narrative with proposed modifications in plans concerning the number of Geoprobos and any other alterations to the original proposed work.**
- 2. The 3 borings with casings shall be moved to outside the 25' No Disturb Zone**
- 3. To lessen the impact of the track vehicles, planking or matting shall be used for access of the track vehicle.**
- 4. There shall be no refueling within the resource area.**

Public Meetings/Hearings:

7:25 p.m. Northrop Grumman Space and Mission Systems – to review a Request for Determination of Applicability for property located at 11-17 Meridian Street (Assessors Map 19 Lot 47A) to determine whether the work depicted on the plans is subject to the jurisdiction of the Wetlands Protection Act. Continued from January 13, 2009.

Jones and Lofstedt of CDM were present. Lofstedt submitted the return receipts for abutter notification and additional funds as requested by the DEP for NOI filing fees.

Haro stated that there was concern about how additional information might change the scope of the work.

Letourneau stated that at the site visit she had told them they would probably be continued until the scope of work would be known and confirmed.

DeHoyos asked how long it would take to gather information. Jones replied that they would know the extent of the work when the data from the additional borings had been analyzed. Jones asked permission to present the plan in order to hear the comments and concerns of the Commission. Jones reviewed the proposed project and showed where areas had been impacted by oil and again pointed out the area where lead had been found, showing the possible scope of work dependent on what was discovered from the additional borings. Jones pointed out where the decontamination pad would be. Jones said there have been occasional outbreaks of oil sheen from the river bottom and pointed out the area where they would be working in the river. During construction in the river, Jones said they would installing a turbidity curtain and upon completion of excavation, the bank would be stabilized by backfilling with rip rap up to the High Water Line and filled with soil to the top of the bank.

DeHoyos asked if there would be matting under the rip rap, and specified that he would like to see geotextile fabric. Jones replied that they would be willing to do this if the Commission required it.

Letourneau asked how steep the grade would be on the stabilized bank. Jones replied that it would be “a little steeper than 1:1.

DeHoyos asked if there would be trees planted. Jones said they would put native trees on the bank but not in the area of excavation adjacent to the wetland, as the woody vegetation would not be conducive to long term monitoring of the capped area..

Mosher asked if they would be working from the North to the South. Jones replied that they would be working South to North, so they would not be dragging contamination into a finished area.. Jones also said they would be working from the river back toward the rest of the area. Mosher asked if water that is coming out of hole will be pumped to Frac tanks. Jones replied in the affirmative. Mosher asked if the pipes used to convey that water would be dug-in to avoid damage by heavy equipment running over them. Jones replied that the nature of the work and the manner in which they will be doing the excavation and filling will not affect the pipes used to convey water to Frac tanks.

DeHoyos asked if they would be driving around the hot zone. After discussion Jones said they would be driving around the hot zone and avoiding it with the vehicles used to transport excavated materials.

Letourneau said that since there would be a continuation, she would like the applicant to submit a detailed modified plan.

Lofstedt addressed CDM's reponses to the DEP comments.

Haro asked if they would hire a biologist to assist with identification of Wood Turtles during construction. Lofstedt replied that she would probably be the biologist on site, but that possibly another biologist from CDM would be on site.

MOTION: Moved by DeHoyos, seconded by Letourneau, and voted 4-0 to continue the public hearing for Joseph Kwan, Northrup Grumman Space and Mission Systems, DEP File #168-0267, to April 14, 2009 to be held at the Greenfield Police Station Meeting Room.

Other Business:

DPW Request for Emergency Work – Green River Pumping Station.

Kunkel read the Limit of Work Allowed and the Special Conditions that would be included on the Emergency Certification. Kunkel noted the condition that stated the start and end date would be set when DPW had all permitting in place.

DeHoyos said that he would like to see matting under the rip rap. Kunkel said he would add that condition.

Correspondence: MACC Annual Conference February 28, 2009.

Enforcements: None

Project Monitoring: Mosher asked Kunkel to contact Home Depot again about their snow storage.

Site Visits: Mass Highway resurfacing of Route 5 & 10 & I-91, site visit to be set for Saturday February 7, 2009.

Set Next Meeting Date: February 10, 2009, 7:00 p.m. Greenfield Police Station, 321 High Street.

Adjournment:

MOTION: Moved by DeHoyos, seconded by Letourneau, and voted 4-0 to adjourn the meeting at 8:55 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ralph Kunkel
Conservation Agent

Alex Haro
Chair