

CONSERVATION COMMISSION



Town of GREENFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS
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GREENFIELD CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Minutes of March 23, 2010

7:00 p.m.

Greenfield Police Station
321 High Street

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 p.m. with the following members:

PRESENT: Alex Haro, Chair; Tim Mosher, Vice-chair; Dee Letourneau; Richard Starkey

ABSENT: Tom DeHoyos

Also present: Ralph Kunkel, Conservation Agent, members of the public.

Approval of Minutes: Approval of Meeting Minutes from March 9, 2010.

MOTION: Moved by Starkey, seconded by Mosher, and voted 4-0 to accept the minutes of March 9, 2010 as submitted.

Public Meetings/Hearings:

7:06 p.m. Gas Development, LLC – to review a Request for Determination of Applicability for property located at 488 Bernardston Road (Assessors Map 122 Lot 15) to determine whether the work depicted on the plans is subject to the jurisdiction of the Greenfield Wetlands Protection Ordinance.

Matthew Varrell, Professional Wetland Scientist of VHB, was present on behalf of the applicant. Varrell pointed out the area in question on a map and remarked that the BVW had been delineated and the wetland boundary is further away from the work area than shown on the GIS map. Varrell reviewed where the borings would be installed and showed that all would be within the previously disturbed area currently coated with asphalt.

Haro asked the reason for the borings. Varrell said that the client is a prospective buyer who would like to know the state of the property and whether there would be environmental clean-up required.

Starkey commented that the boring in the back corner seemed to be in the most critical area relative to the underground tanks.

Haro asked about the disposal of spoils from the borings. Varrell replied that any excess soil would be trucked off site.

Mosher asked which would borings would be retained as monitoring wells. Varrell said that would depend on what was found when the borings were done. Mosher then reviewed the site visit.

Letourneau, referring to the question checked on the application, asked for clarification of the area of work proposed in the plans.

Mosher asked that any opening in the curb be protected from spoils.

Motion: Moved by Letourneau, seconded by Mosher and voted 3-0 (Haro abstained) to make a negative determination that the area and work described is within an area subject to review and approval by the Greenfield Wetlands Protection Ordinance (Ch. 195). Since the work described therein meets the requirements for the following exemption, as specified in the Act and the regulations and thereby in the Ordinance, no Notice of Intent is required: 310 CMR 10.02(2)(b)g.

Other Business: Thomas Walker, 33 Thayer Road, request for information on dredging a pond.

Walker explained that silt had washed into his pond and that he would like to dredge the pond; he said there was a culvert pipe, under the road to Charlene Manor, which he believed was the source of the silt. Mosher said that he believed that might be the case as the pipe was completely blocked.

Walker referred to the pond as a natural pond, isolated and spring-fed.

Haro asked Walker for the square footage of the pond. Walker stated that he was unsure. Mosher said that he had looked at it and had estimated it at about 7,800 square feet.

Haro asked if the pond needed to be drained before it could be dredged. Walker said that it did not. Haro asked for the depth of the pond. Walker replied that at the deepest it would be about 3½ feet. Haro reviewed some previous cases of requests for dredging that had come before the Commission. Haro recommended the filing of a Notice of Intent.

Public Meetings/Hearings (cont.):

7:31 p.m. Tim Smith, National Grid – to review a Notice of Intent for property of the New England Power Company Easement located at 562 Leyden Road (Assessors Map R30 Lot 3) to conduct maintenance of existing A127/B128 lattice tower 115kV electric line to mitigate sub-standard line clearances and to repair/replace overhead reconductoring units on each tower structure. Structure replacement required at one structure.

Kelly Kippenberger, Professional Wetland Scientist of TRC, was present on behalf of the applicant. Kippenberger submitted the Certified Mailing receipts and the 401/404 certification from the Army Corps of Engineers. Kippenberger reviewed the project and explained that while most of the work would be exempt, the need to replace one structure within the wetland would be under the jurisdiction of the Commission. Kippenberger said they would also be reinforcing existing foundations which is considered maintenance and therefore exempt. While the National Grid has an exemption from Natural Heritage, Kippenberger explained that there is a protocol required for work within the habitat of certain species and that the NHESP protocol would be followed during construction. Kippenberger said all work would be done off swamp mats; that the old structure would be cut below the ground level and the wetland allowed to revegetate naturally.

Letourneau asked the size of the area that would be impacted during the construction. Kippenberger said she was not sure.

Haro asked if all the swamp matting would be 12x12 timbers. Kippenberger replied that they would be. Haro asked if there would be access to the area from both ends. Kippenberger replied that there would be because of the nature and frequency of the heavy equipment that would need to access the area. Haro asked when the work would be done. Kippenberger said that the ideal conditions were winter and summer, and added that perhaps by the next winter the work will begin; the applicant would notify the Agent when they planned to begin the work. Haro asked if they would be trucking out spoils. Kippenberger replied they would be and explained possible dewatering scenarios. Kippenberger added that they would be doing geotechnical borings to find bedrock.

Haro asked for a footprint of where each foundation pad would go. Kippenberger said she would supply these.

Kunkel reminded the Commission that a DEP File number had not yet been assigned and the Public Hearing would have to be continued.

MOTION: Moved by Mosher, seconded by Letourneau and voted 4-0, to continue the Public Hearing for the National Grid to April 13, 2010 7:00 p.m. and to be held at the Greenfield Police Station.

Other Business(cont.): Kunkel updated the Commission on a situation at the Swim Area wherein severe scouring had occurred as the result of logs that had lodged in the river during the winter. Kunkel said the town would like to fill in the holes that had been washed out because it would constitute a safety hazard. Kunkel said he had called DEP and the ACOE and that the Town would need to get permission from the ACOE to do the work.

Correspondence: None

Enforcement Orders: None

Site Visits: None

Next Meeting: Greenfield Police Station Meeting Room, April 13, 2010, 7:00 p.m.

Adjournment:

MOTION: Moved by Letourneau, seconded by Mosher, and voted 4-0 to adjourn the meeting at 8:03 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ralph Kunkel
Conservation Agent

Alex Haro
Chair