

GRNSERVATION COMMISSION

Town of GREENFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS
114 Main Street, Greenfield MA 01301

413-772-1551
413-772-1309 (fax)



GREENFIELD CONSERVATION COMMISSION Minutes of December 14, 2010 7:00 p.m.

Greenfield Planning Department
114 Main Street

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

PRESENT: Alex Haro, Chair; Tim Mosher, Vice-chair; Dee Letourneau; Tom DeHoyos; Steve Walk
ABSENT: None
Also present: Ralph Kunkel, Conservation Agent and members of the Public.

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

MOTION: Moved by DeHoyos, seconded by Walk, and voted 4-0 (Letourneau abstained) to approve the minutes of November 9, 2010 as submitted.

Approval of Meeting Minutes from November 23, 2010.

MOTION: Moved by DeHoyos, seconded by Mosher, and voted 5-0 to approve the minutes of November 23, 2010 as submitted.

Public Meetings/Hearings:

7:02 p.m. Pam Am Railways, Inc. – Public Meeting to review a Request for Determination of Applicability for property located along Pam Am Inc. Rights of Way. to verify wetlands areas for herbicide application.

No representative was present.

Haro reviewed the site visit. Haro stated that he had seen a few areas that were close to resource areas. After explaining the spraying technique, Haro said he had requested that they retract the spray boom to a five foot width in those areas and that such areas be designated Limited Spray Areas. Haro suggested that the applicant be asked to document areas where there should be a limited spray zone, suggesting that this could be a condition; and that a new map be submitted with the following demarcations: spray zones, limited spray zones and no spray zones.

Walk asked how the commission would be able to verify that the sprayers abided by the protocol. Haro replied that the wetland scientist, who seemed conscientious, would accompany the sprayer.

A discussion ensued whether or not to continue the public meeting. The consensus of the Commission was to have the applicant put up additional markers to denote the “limited spray zones” to which Haro had referred. In addition, the Commission requested that at the time of spraying the Applicant document the limited spray areas on a map. Mosher requested a Narrative describing the Methodology used.

MOTION: Moved by DeHoyos, seconded by Walk and voted 5-0 to continue the Public Meeting for Pam Am Railways to 7:00 p.m. December 28, 2010 to be held at 114 Main Street.

7:30 p.m. Lincoln Fish – Public Hearing to review a Notice of Intent for the Griswold/GTD Conservation Area located on Lampblack Road (Assessors Map R10 Lot 16) to install two culverts.

Kunkel reported that Lincoln Fish had submitted a request for continuation to the Next Meeting. Kunkel gave a brief overview of some complications that had arisen in the NOI.

MOTION: Moved by DeHoyos, seconded by Walk, and voted 5-0 to continue the Public Hearing for Lincoln Fish, to 8:00 p.m. December 28, 2010 to be held at 114 Main Street.

7:49 Moved by DeHoyos, seconded by Letourneau, and voted 5-0 to recess 10 minutes.

8:00 p.m. Haro reconvened the meeting.

8:00 p.m. Gas Development, LLC – Public Hearing to review a Notice of Intent for property located at 488 Bernardston Road (Assessors Map 122 Lot 15) for demolition of the existing gas station and construction of a five pump fuel facility and amenities.

Kristin Kent, Environmental Scientist with VHB, Conor Nagle, Project Engineer with VHB, Bill O'Brien with Gas Development and David Singer, attorney for the applicant were present on behalf of the applicant.

Haro reviewed the site visit and explained that the Wetland Delineation review was done carefully and he was satisfied with the accuracy of the delineation. Haro noted that the File Number and DEP Comments, as, well as the applicant's responses, had only been received just prior to the meeting and he thought the Commission would need more time to review both. Kent acknowledged that she had anticipated the Commission would need more time to review the DEP Comments and VHB's responses. Haro then asked for a review of the project.

Kent reviewed the project, explaining that this project qualified as Riverfront redevelopment. Kent then addressed each of the DEP Comments.

DeHoyos asked about the decrease in impervious pavement. Nagle responded that there was a 13% overall reduction in impervious pavement.

Haro asked if new pavement was impervious. Kent responded that it would be, as gas stations may not use impervious paving. Haro asked for verification that the project would not be in the 100-year flood plain. Kent showed on the plans that the 100-year flood plain was beyond the project area.

DeHoyos asked about snow storage. Nagle pointed out on the plans that the snow would be stowed on the northwest corner of the paved area outside the Riverfront area. Nagle said if in any storm, the snow storage requirement exceeded the area allocated, the excess would be hauled off site. DeHoyos asked where the dumpster would be placed. Nagle showed the location of the dumpster on the plans.

Mosher asked about the results from soil borings from the previous Determination issued to Gas Development. . Nagle said they had been geotechnical borings to determine where to put the new gas tanks. Mosher asked Nagle what type of tanks are currently there and if there was any evidence of leakage. Nagle responded that he was unsure of the make-up of the old tanks, but that to his knowledge there had not been any evidence of leakage.

Haro asked for details about the construction of the bio-retention basis. Nagle said that it would be constructed with a wetland soil mix loose enough to let water penetrate, but it would reduce suspended solids. This in turn because of the nature of drainage from the pavement would be lined underneath and drained to a pipe.

DeHoyos asked if there would be curbing around the entire paved area. Nagle responded there would be.

Walk asked why the tanks were not going to be located completely out of the riverfront area. Nagle

responded that the geotechnical borings had shown ledge; that they liked to have the tanks aligned for ease of tanker access, and the selected location allowed for that.

Mosher asked about the drainage Nagle had said would go on to Bernardston Road. Nagle pointed out that the drainage was minimal and only at the access points to the station; that the pavement sloped toward the treatment areas ensuring the majority of the drainage would be treated.

Walk asked how close the calculations for the stormceptors were to the specified limits. Nagle said they could have selected a smaller size, but they had opted for the next larger size.

Haro asked for clarification of the Canopy drainage. Nagle said since it is clean water they did not want to overload the bioretention basin as it would lessen the treatment of the drainage from the pavement.

There was no further discussion.

MOTION: Moved by Letourneau, seconded by Walk, and voted 5-0 to continue the Public Hearing for Gas Development LLC DEP File # 168-0280 to 7:30 p.m. December 28, 2010 to be held at 114 Main Street.

Other Business: Roberta Green, plan for invasive species control. Robert Green was not present. Haro said that since this was the second meeting she had missed and since the Commission had not seen a work plan, he would recommend sending her a letter ordering her to -Cease and Desist all her work in Highland Park until she had come before the Commission and received permission to do so.

MOTION: Moved by DeHoyos, seconded by Mosher, and voted 5-0 to issue a Cease and Desist Order to Roberta Green.

Highland Park Bike Races – 2011. Patrick Healey, 47 Olympia Drive, Amherst, was present to request permission to hold Bicycle races again in the summer of 2011. Healey said there would be 4 races in 2011 instead of 12. These are currently scheduled for the four Wednesdays in June of 2011. Healey asked about the area of trail the Commission had asked to be rerouted. Haro explained to him what section was in question. Haro asked Healey to come before the Commission in May with finalized plans prior to the beginning of the races. There was no further discussion.

MOTON: Moved by DeHoyos, seconded by Letourneau, and voted 5-0 that the Commission support send a letter of support to the Licensing Commission and that the Commission will meet prior to the Races and after the races to review the impact on trails.

Project Monitoring: Kunkel said that he had received the 2010 Monitoring Report from Horsley Witten for the *in-situ* restoration of the Bordering Vegetated Wetland 4 on the Mackin Property. In the report, the Wetland Scientist, Amy Ball, recommended that the wetland and buffer zone be carefully monitored for Purple Loosestrife, which should be pulled as soon as detected. Kunkel asked if the Commission wanted to send a letter to the Planning Board recommending a Condition that the area be monitored for loosestrife intrusion? After discussion the Commission was in agreement that this needs to be done by the current owner and subsequent owners and that a Deed Restriction be recommended to ensure the property owner will monitor and remove, pulling by hand, any Purple Loosestrife and submit an annual report to the Conservation Commission.

MOTION: Moved by Letourneau, seconded by Walk, and voted 5-0, to send a letter of recommendation to the Planning Board with the suggestion that the Wetland and its buffer shall be monitored for Purple Loosestrife and that any Purple Loosestrife detected will be removed, pulling it by its roots and disposing of it in black opaque bags, with an Annual report to be submitted to the Conservation Commission each December.

Correspondence: Kunkel said the Commission had received a letter of thanks from the Civil Air Patrol for being allowed the use of the Griswold/GTD Conservation Area and that they would be applying again in the spring of 2011 for permission to use the area again.

Kunkel announced the Commission had received Certification from Natural Heritage for two more vernal pools.

Enforcement Updates:

Site Visits:

Next Meeting: December 28, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. Greenfield Planning Department, 114 Main Street.

Adjournment: **MOTION: Moved by DeHoyos, seconded by Letourneau, and voted 5-0 to adjourn the meeting at 8:35 p.m.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Ralph Kunkel
Conservation Agent

Alex Haro
Chair