

# CONSERVATION COMMISSION

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

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



**GREENFIELD CONSERVATION COMMISSION**  
**Minutes of August 23, 2011**  
**7:00 p.m. Greenfield Planning Department**  
**114 Main Street**

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

- PRESENT:** Alex Haro, Chair  
Tim Mosher, Vice-chair  
Steve Walk
- ABSENT:** Dee Letourneau  
Tom DeHoyos
- ALSO PRESENT:** Laura DiNardo, Conservation Agent and members of the Public.

Approval of Minutes: Approval of Meeting Minutes from August 9, 2011.

Haro abstained from voting since he was not present at the August 9, 2011 meeting.

**MOTION:** Moved by Mosher, seconded by Walk, and voted 3-0 to postpone approval of minutes until next hearing.

Public Meetings/Hearings:

7:00 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. Continued from August 9, 2011.

Haro stated that Lincoln Fish would arrive around 7:30 p.m. Public hearing began at 8:23 p.m.

Haro verified that the Commission missed the grant deadline and suggested withdrawing the Notice of Intent.

Fish suggested working on an alternative vision. The culvert project became too complex and expensive. He suggested we re-evaluate what we want the road system to serve as. The engineer, Ken Black, reviewed first crossing and thought it was okay; the farmer and tractor can cross sufficiently and a temporary bridge can be used for harvesting.

Fish stated the second crossing is more problematic, mowing equipment cannot get across channel; they have never used anything more than a few logs. Horses and bikes cannot pass and a bridge for harvesting is only ideal during certain weather. The “boy scout bridge” is not stable for horses or equipment.

Lincoln suggested using crushed stone or gravel to firm up soil so horses and bikes can cross.

Haro verified resource as USGS intermittent stream.

Walk mentioned that as long as we are not disturbing land under water there should be no substantial issue.

Haro stated the new idea seems affordable and practical and from a DEP standpoint it should not propose too much of an issue. Walk suggested submitting an RDA instead of an NOI since the project proposes limited disturbance.

Commission discussed how they would get a truck on-site. Fish suggested an F350 size truck would be suitable and that Larry Petrin, who is no longer with the town, stated he would help.

Fish stated the project would need to begin next summer when the ground is very dry.

Commission supported the RDA submission and would like an estimated cost.

DiNardo will contact Mark Stinson to withdraw the Notice of Intent.

7:05 p.m. Northrop Grumman Systems Corporation – Public hearing to review a Notice of Intent for property located at the Former Swarf Disposal Area, 11-17 Meridian Street (Map 19, Parcel 47A), for a limited excavation and groundwater monitoring well abandonment and replacement.

Applicant was late to hearing; Commission discussed other business until applicant arrived at 7:14 p.m.

Nathan Jones, Camp Dresser & McKee (CDM), represented Northman Grumman Systems. He began with a brief history of the site and project. This is the former location of the Greenfield Tap and Die Plant, which disposed of Swarf on-site. During the 1980s, this site was excavated to remove contaminants but work stopped short of river leaving contaminants on-site. In 2009, they submitted a Notice of Intent pertaining to the same remedial efforts; 10 wells were excavated. The liquid (petroleum) levels in certain ground water wells at the site have not decreased to the point where the site can be closed per the Massachusetts Contingency Plan so they are proposing additional excavation around these wells.

Jones verified that the product is approximately between 8ft and 19ft in subsurface, the ground water is 11-13 feet down. Therefore, the top 8-feet of soil will be removed and stock piled. The bottom 8-feet will be placed on sheeting. The top 8-feet will be backfilled and the other 8-feet will be replaced with certified-clean soil. The extent of the work will be approximately one week and they will keep an eye on heavy rains and the weather forecast. Hay bales and silt fence will be installed for erosion control and the soil will be stored on-site within a hay bale bermed/silt fence area. A frac-tank will be used to temporarily store water. Two Cottonwood trees will need to be removed from bank.

Walk expressed concern about bank stabilization after the Cottonwoods are removed.

Jones verified that it is a well-stabilized and vegetated area and that they will seed the area after construction with an upland vegetation mix.

Haro suggested replacing the trees 2:1 to ensure future stabilization.

Walk expressed concern about whether the product was in the river or on the other side of the river and what excavation methods were going to take place.

Jones confirmed a small excavator was going to be used along with temporary sheeting. He also mentioned that there was a slight sheen observed in river. It is currently in a Class C Response Action Outcome, meaning there is no substantial hazard and no hazard to ecological receptors at this time.

Mosher verified that two wells showed contamination during the 2009 work. Jones confirmed that two wells found product but the ground water was not impacted or contaminated.

Mosher asked if there was an alternative analysis done; chemical treatment without ripping the bank.

Jones stated chemical/ biological treatments have not worked in past and are only ideal for thin layers of product.

Mosher asked how many gallons of product were removed and where the product was coming from.

Jones stated that no less than 2000 gallons of water/product were removed during 3-4 hit events, which removed at least 500 gallons per hit. They are not sure where it is coming from exactly they hope to find that out.

Jones stated Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) work would be done before any excavation. Commission notified applicant that the Commission will need to approve any new plans or methods that arise based on the GPR's findings.

Jones verified that currently they cannot start the project before October 1<sup>st</sup> per Natural Heritage because of the Wood Turtle hatching season.

Walk expressed concern about any emergency plans if there are heavy rains during excavation. Jones verified that they were using a 20,000 gal frac-tank, will watch the weather forecast before and during excavation, and will do the project as quickly as possible

**MOTION: Moved by Mosher, seconded by Walk, and voted 3-0 to approve the Notice of Intent submitted by Northrop Grumman Systems Corporation located at the former Swarf Disposal Area, 11-17 Meridian Street (Map 19, Parcel 47A), for the limited excavation and groundwater monitoring well abandonment and replacement subject to the following conditions:**

- 1. When Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) work is complete, a report must be submitted to the Commission. If the GPR work shows inconclusive, applicant must continue with approved plan submitted in original Notice of Intent. If not, the applicant must come before the Commission to discuss any changes in original plans and is subject to further review and a possible amendment to the Order of Conditions.**
- 2. Four (4) Cottonwood trees should be planted to stabilize bank soils due to the removal of two (2) Cottonwood trees during necessary construction. This work should be done prior to the Request for Certificate of Compliance.**
- 3. Standard Boiler Plate Conditions apply.**

7:30 p.m. Berkshire Gas Company – Public Hearing to review a Request for Determination of Applicability for property located at 40 Mill Street/30 Mead Street (Map 30, Parcel 5 & Map 28, Parcel 16), for the excavation of three test pits as part of the remedial design investigations for the former MGP (Manufactured Gas Plant) site.

Public hearing began at 7:55 p.m.

Jack Yablonsky introduced himself as the Berkshire Gas Representative.

Ishwar Murarka, Ish Inc., introduced himself and presented two pictures/maps. He described the 2007 Notice of Intent and the Notice of Intent work they plan to submit in November 2011. In the first Notice of Intent they found that the extent of contamination was larger than planned. The Request pertains to the excavation of three test pits to verify the extent. Test pits will be 10-feet x 20-feet x 15-feet deep. Two of the test pits are almost out of the flood plain but the last test pit is completely in the floodplain. Silt curtain/hay bales will be used for erosion control barriers around each of the three test pits. All the soil removed will be replaced back into pit in the same order it

was removed. If needed, some topsoil will be added. Water will be pumped into a frac-tank and disposed off-site.

Walk asked how long each test pit would be open. Murarka verified they would be open for 1 to 2 hours. The total work time will be around 3 days.

Walk asked what they plan to do with the contaminated soil. Murarka verified they will place soil back into the ground in the same order it was removed. Their goal isn't to remove the soil at this time, just test.

Haro asked where the contaminated soil would be placed for that few hours. Murarka verified a plastic mat.

Walk verified that the Request was just for the three test pits; all other work will be in a new Notice of Intent.

Haro asked if they had an emergency/contingency plan. Murarka explained they will plan all work when it is dry. They will check the weather forecast 2 days in advance and reschedule if they need to.

Mosher asked if they expected to hit water during excavation. Murarka verified they expected to hit water around 8-feet below surface.

**MOTION: Moved by Walk, seconded by Mosher, and voted 3-0 to make a negative determination that the work described in the Request is within the Buffer Zone, as defined by the regulations, but will not alter the Area subject to protection under the Act. Therefore, said work does not require the filing of a Notice of Intent subject to the following conditions:**

- 1. Standard RDA Boiler Plate Conditions apply.**
- 2. All soil should be 'like in kind'; soil to be removed during test pit excavation should be replaced with same type soil.**

**MOTION: Moved by Walk, seconded by Mosher, and voted 4-0 to make a negative determination that the area and/or work described in the Request is not subject to review and approval by the Greenfield Wetlands Protection Ordinance (Ch. 195).**

Other Business:

Request for Certificate of Compliance: Northrop Grumman Systems Corporation for DEP File # 168-0267, the Former Swarf Disposal Area at 11-17 Meridian Street.

Nathan Jones introduced himself and the project. Project involved remedial work involving the excavation of contaminated soil from the former owner, Greenfield Tap and Die. Excavation took place in the fall of 2009 and the spring of 2010. It was seeded, left alone for a year and if now mowed twice per year.

Haro referred to the August 22<sup>nd</sup> site visit and verified that the vegetation looks as expected with some wetland species closer to bank.

Walk requested the silt fence/hay bale be removed.

Haro mentioned that the mowing should be done in perpetuity.

Jones verified that the site is not closed with a permanent solution and a deed restriction would need to be in place requiring the land be mowed twice a year until a permanent solution reached or

cap removed.

Haro confirmed that if the town bought the land they would do so with the deed restriction and need to mow twice a year.

- MOTION:** **Moved by Mosher, seconded by Walk, and voted 3-0 to issue Northrop Grumman Systems Corporation a Certificate of Compliance for DEP File # 168-0267 for the Former Swarf Disposal Area at 11-17 Meridian Street subject to the following conditions.**
- 1. Applicant should removal all hay bale/silt fence barriers.**
  - 2. There should be a deed restriction on this property requiring it be mowed twice per year until a permanent solution is found or the until property is capped.**

Correspondence:

DiNardo reminded the Commission that the MACC Fall Conference is on October 15, 2011, 8:30 - 5:00 @ Clark University, Worcester MA.

Haro asked whether the Town of Greenfield would be reimbursing the Commission. DiNardo will confirm with Eric Twarog.

DiNardo presented a letter from James G. Turek regarding the Green River Ecosystem Restoration Project notifying other consulting parties that the restoration involves archeologically sensitive areas.

Haro stated it is regarding the Wiley and Russell dam and is assuming the Greenfield Historical Society is seeking state input before the Town of Greenfield pursues the project further.

Commission verified that they will not do a site visit of the Solar Farm II Millbrook/Wellfield DPW Site until they have officially filed a Notice of Intent.

DiNardo presented the commission with a Compliance follow-up spreadsheet listing all applicants that potentially need to file Compliance because Orders have expired.

Monitoring:

DiNardo updated the Commission that Joe Smith, who was hired by the Department of Agricultural Resources, is seeking permission to monitor one of the town owned parcels (32 acres at crossing of Leyden Road and Glenbrook Drive) with an Agricultural Preservation Restriction (APR). The monitoring involved walking the site, taking pictures, and documenting farm activities.

Haro would like the Commission to be notified when Mr. Smith is conducting the site visit.

Enforcement Updates:

The commission mentioned the Kalinowski enforcement. Neither DiNardo nor Haro have heard from DEP or Kalinowski regarding the matter in the last month or so. Haro will try to find out more from DEP. The Fire chief gave him 30 days to move pile away from building.

Site Visits: N/A

Next Meeting: September 13, 2011 7:00 p.m. Greenfield Planning Department, 114 Main Street.

Adjournment:

**MOTION:** **Moved by Mosher, seconded by Walk, and voted 3-0 to adjourn the meeting at 9:00 p.m.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Laura DiNardo  
Conservation Agent

Alex Haro  
Chair