

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

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

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GREENFIELD CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Minutes of October 11, 2011
7:00 p.m. Greenfield Planning Department
114 Main Street

The meeting was called to order by chair, Alex Haro at 7:05 p.m. with the following members:

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

Approval of Minutes: Approval of Meeting Minutes from September 27, 2011.

MOTION: Moved by Letourneau, seconded by Mosher, and voted 4-0, to approve the minutes from September 27, 2011 with one correction.

Haro corrected one typo on page two of the September 27, 2011 minutes.

Public Meetings/Hearings:

7:00 p.m. Town of Greenfield Department of Public Works – Public Hearing to review an Abbreviated Notice of Resource Area Delineation for property located at 195 Log Plain Road, Millbrook Well Field (Map R11, Lot 84), to review the wetland boundaries.

Haro briefly introduced the project, applicant, and the site at 7:06 p.m.

Simon Hildt, Tighe&Bond Representative, and Sara Campbell, Town of Greenfield Department of Public Works Representative introduced themselves to the Commission

Hildt described the main features of the site: Two (2) perennial streams, one (1) intermittent stream, and associated Bordering Vegetated Wetlands (BVW). The intermittent stream is the culvert connecting two sections of BVW labeled on plan.

Hildt stated the Department of Environmental Protection/Mark Stinson's comments to applicant.

- Describe in detail how mean annual high water was determined.
- Possible submission of a better-scaled plan.
- Possible submission of a narrative explaining flag groups (as seen on plan).
- Stream stats should be run on the intermittent stream (culvert).

Hildt stated that the mean annual high water was determined based on soil/vegetation type. Some identified species included, but were not limited to, arrowwood, high bush blueberry, and cinnamon fern. The soil was mostly identified as poorly drained dark/gray soils but soil type closer to wetland vegetation had lighter sections.

Hildt stated that the Commission did not request better-scaled plans.

Hildt stated that when the Applicant submitted the plan to the Department of Environmental Protection, they sent a black and white copy. When the color copy was submitted to the Commission, they saw no need for a detailed narrative explaining flag groups.

Hildt stated that stream stats could not be run for the intermittent stream because it is not on the USGS Quad Maps.

Campbell discussed the current use and the possible goals for future use. Currently it has three structures; site is used for the Town's well field. In the future, they would like to create a solar farm. Because the potential project requires a large open space, they wanted to delineate the property before submission of an RDA/NOI.

Haro stated that without a development plan it is difficult for the Commission to predict future approval. The Department of Public Works will need to work around the Delineation, if approved as is. Commission usually requires a 1:1 or a 2:1 replacement with similar species on site.

Letourneau stated that the site/delineation makes sense as presented. She understands that Campbell is knowledgeable and will try to work reasonably with the Commission and the delineation.

DeHoyos asked the applicant how many trees were in the Resource Area.

Campbell/Hildt stated it is around eight (8) trees.

Mosher suggested that the Applicant/Commission deal with one thing at a time. The delineation looks good as presented. An ANDRAD is much different from an RDA/NOI, there is no proposed work at this time.

Haro stated he walked the majority of the site but they were unable to see everything due to the high/thick vegetation. The Commission should vote on the ANRAD and leave the solar farm discussion for another time when a development plan is submitted.

Mosher would like to see the property boundary line added to the plan along with the wetland delineation.

Letourneau expressed concern that the delineation markings on the submitted plan go outside the Town's property boundary.

Haro stated that the Town would need to submit a minimum of an RDA before further discussion.

Letourneau asked what the time-frame for the project was.

Campbell stated that they are looking to submit development plan relatively quickly.

MOTION: Moved by DeHoyos, seconded by Letourneau, and voted 4-0, to approve the boundaries described on the referenced plan and in the Abbreviated Notice of Resource Area Delineation as accurately drawn for the following Resource Area(s):

1. **Bordering Vegetated Wetlands**
2. **Inland Bank**
3. **Mean Annual High Water**
4. **200-ft Riverfront Area**
5. **100-ft Buffer Zone.**

Other Business:

Correspondence:

Letourneau requested her primary email be changed for Commission emails.

DiNardo presented the McDonalds's Alternative Analysis and pictures from the preconstruction meeting to the Commission.

Commission mentioned that they saw work trucks onsite and are concerned work will begin before ten (10) days appeal period.

Mosher stated that as far as he knew McDonald's was closing for a week because of construction.

DiNardo will send a letter to applicant reiterating the appeal period.

DiNardo presented the Natural Heritage Comments and the preconstruction photos for 11-17 Meridian Street.

DiNardo presented preconstruction photos to the Commission for 488 Bernardston Road.

Haro updated Commission on the October 4, 2011 site visit at the former Mackin site. The vegetation growing is not much different from the last site visit. There is a problem with the Japanese Knotweed; it was originally required to be dug out by hand and it is growing back. It is outside of the wetland restoration area but a potential threat to the wetland. Haro suggested we write a letter to the property owner suggesting chemical control of Japanese Knotweed. This will be in the property owner's best interests and is needed to maintain the integrity of the wetland.

MOTION: Moved by DeHoyos, seconded by Mosher, and voted 4:0 to write a letter to the property owner recommending that they hire a MA certified herbicide applicator to control the Japanese Knotweed. Commission recommend that the letter:

- 1. State that it is in the property owner's best interest.**
- 2. State that it is necessary to maintain the integrity of the wetland.**
- 3. List local certified applicators.**

Haro mentioned the Open Space and Recreation Plan Survey. It is available to be filled out. Not sure where the drop box location is at 114 Main Street. DiNardo will follow-up on drop box at 114 Main Street – Planning Department.

Monitoring:

Enforcement Updates:

Commission stated that the DOT Rotary lighting project looks complete and they are re-seeding area. The Commission expressed concern about the removal of trees in this area prior to the lighting project for a camera project.

DiNardo will contact applicant to make sure trees are being planted.

DeHoyos notified the Commission that a fence was built at 64 East Cleveland Drive and they are dumping fill in the wetland.

DiNardo will look at site, possible send a violation letter asking homeowner to attend next meeting.

Site Visits:

Next Meeting: Tuesday, October 25, 2011 @ 7 PM, 114 Main Street, Planning Department Meeting Room. If nothing is submitted by October 14, 2011 this meeting will be cancelled.

Adjournment:

MOTION: Moved by Letourneau, seconded by Mosher, and voted 4-0 to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Laura DiNardo
Conservation Agent

Alex Haro
Chair