

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Town of GREENFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS
14 Court Square, Greenfield MA 01301

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GREENFIELD CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Minutes of December 27, 2011
7:00 p.m. Greenfield Planning Department
114 Main Street

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

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

Approval of Minutes: Approval of Meeting Minutes from November 22, 2011 and December 13, 2011.

DeHoyos and Mosher were absent from the November 22, 2011 meeting. Walk was absent from the December 13, 2011 meeting.

MOTION: Moved by Letourneau, seconded by Walk, and voted 3-0 approve the minutes from November 22, 2011.

MOTION: Moved by Letourneau, seconded by Walk, and voted 3-0 to table the approval of the December 13, 2011 minutes until next meeting.

Public Meetings/Hearings:

Other Business:

- a. Request for Certificate of Compliance – Mackin Construction Company, 145 Gill Road (DEP# 168-0269)

Tony Wonseski, SVE, Senior Project Manager representing Mackin Construction Company for the in-situ wetland restoration at 145 Gill Road.

Haro mentioned the December 19, 2011 site visit. DiNardo, Haro, Wonseski, and Braitsch were present. The site appeared to be in the same condition as the last visit. The applicant is continuously working on the invasive control (purple loosestrife). The silt fence has been removed and the straw wattles have been cut away from resource area. There are still reference stakes in the resource area; there was some discussion about whether or not they should be removed at site visit.

Walk asked about the stakes, should they be removed at this time. The Commission discussed leaving them there for future reference, could be helpful if or when the site is further developed.

Haro explained the Knotweed problem on site. The Commission sent a letter to the Greenfield Property Development, LLC, the current landowner, regarding possible control. DiNardo will work with Allary Braitsch, regarding the issue. Wonseski will keep in touch with DiNardo regarding contact information.

DiNardo asked the Commission to sign the Certificate of Compliance and a copy was given to Wonseski to record at the Registry of Deeds. DiNardo asked Wonseski to sign a form stating that he received the Certificate of behalf of the property owner/applicant.

MOTION: Moved by Letourneau, seconded by Walk, and voted 3-0 to issue a complete Certificate of Compliance for DEP File# 168-0269, 145 Gill Road.

b. Town of Greenfield Wetland Protection Ordinance (Chapter 195) – Continued discussion and review.

The Commission reviewed which sections each Commissioner was reviewing. Discussion will pick up next meeting when, hopefully, all members are present. DeHoyos will continue ‘Jurisdiction’ section, DiNardo will continue ‘Applications and Fees’ section, Letourneau will continue ‘Notice and Hearings’ section, Mosher will continue ‘Coordination with Other Boards’. These topics will be discussed at the next meeting.

DiNardo will ask about a 13-pocket folder for Walk purchased by Ralph for Ordinance Review.

c. Town of Greenfield Open Space and Recreation Plan update – discussion and input.

The Commission reviewed “Goal A: Preserve, Protect, and enhance Greenfield’s Open Space” of the Open Space and Recreation Plan update. The Recreation Department was looking for the Commissions input on when certain tasks could be completed.

Goals discussion:

A2a. Work with local trail groups and the Department of Public Works on continuing trail maintenance and expansion of the existing trail system.

A2b. Work to acquire threatened environmentally sensitive areas.

A2e. Work to ensure that recreation activities are consistent with the protection of wildlife and fish populations and their habitats.

Possibly split A2a into two (2) parts. Maintenance should be ongoing but expansion should have a set year.

Possibly split A2b into two (2) parts. First we need to identify, which should have a set year, and then we need to acquire, which should either be ongoing or have a set date depending on how much land is identified.

A2e should possibly include a GIS map that has wetland and open space overlays so we can more easily identify which recreation sites are within the Commission jurisdiction (vernal pool, listed species habitat, resource areas, etc)

The Commission reviewed “Goal B: Increase Public Awareness, Use, and Understanding of the importance of Greenfield’s Open Space” of the Open Space and Recreation Plan update. The Recreation Department was looking for the Commissions input on when certain tasks could be completed.

B1e. Organize yearly education walks for the public on Greenfield conservation land, especially the Griswold/GTD conservation area and Highland Park/Poets Seat.

B1f. Develop a self-guided nature walk at a town conservation parcel, similar to the self-guided forestry walk at Griswold.

The Commission discussed other events in the past. The turn out has never been great. Maybe “yearly” educational walks should be changed. Possibly need a new target; combine the hike/guided walk during other town events. Work with the school system. The Commission discussed Westwood Wildlife Sanctuary; best access to this site is unsure, there is a right-a-way through

homeowners property.

The Commission would like to work with the Open Space and Recreation Committee during the next few months. The ConCom could possibly attend an Open Space meeting or a representative, possibly from the Recreation Department, could attend a ConCom meeting. DiNardo will work with both Committees to discuss a meeting.

Correspondence:

DiNardo asked the Commission to re-sign the 488 Bernardston, Former Magic Gas site, Order of Conditions. Applicant misplaced original copy, which is needed to record Order with the Registry of Deeds. DiNardo will send the updated copy to the applicant to ensure it is recorded.

Monitoring:

Enforcement Updates:

Site Visits: None

Next Meeting: January 10, 2012 @ 7:00PM – Department of Planning and Development Meeting Room

Adjournment:

MOTION: Moved by Letourneau, seconded by Walk, and voted 3-0 to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Laura DiNardo
Conservation Agent

Alex Haro
Chair