

# CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Town of GREENFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS  
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**GREENFIELD CONSERVATION COMMISSION**  
**Minutes of September 11, 2012**  
**7:00 p.m. Greenfield Planning Department**  
**114 Main Street**

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

- PRESENT:** Alex Haro, Chair  
Timothy Mosher, Vice-Chair  
Dee Letourneau  
Thomas DeHoyos  
John Blasiak
- ABSENT:** None
- ALSO PRESENT:** Laura DiNardo, Conservation Agent, and members of the public.

Approval of Minutes: Approval of Meeting Minutes from August 14, 2012.

**MOTION:** Moved by Letourneau, seconded by DeHoyos, and voted 4-0 to table the minutes until Mosher is present.

Mosher arrived at 7:10 p.m.

**MOTION:** Moved by Mosher, seconded by Letourneau, and voted 3-0, with two abstentions, to approve the minutes from August 14, 2012.

Public Meetings/Hearings:

7:15 p.m. Dubois and King (Charlotte Brodie) representing the Town of Greenfield, DPW (Sara Campbell) - Public Hearing to review a Notice of Intent for property located at Eunice Williams Drive (Map R31, Parcel 10,12,13). Work pertains to the repair of the pumping station bridge that was damaged by severe flooding associated with tropical storm Irene.

Sara Campbell, Town Engineer  
Charlotte Brodie, Dubois & King

Brodie explained the details of the project with the goal to bring the area to conditions prior to the tropical storm Irene. Boards are to be replaced as needed, the sidewalk is to be permanently removed, and both abutments are to be replaced. Work shall be done on the existing footprint. There will be minimal excavation, stonework will be saved, abutment will be filled with stone (for a historic look), and sediments deposited from the storm will be removed. The project is currently under review by the Massachusetts Historical Society (MHC).

Blasiak asked if the bridge would be brought to a code that allowed vehicular traffic. Campbell confirmed that it would be used for vehicular traffic.

Haro asked about the approach road. Campbell and Brodie explained that they will pave that area and conduct little

excavation. Haro expressed concern that the work is within Riverfront but it not described in the NOI or plans. Haro also expressed concern about restoration in that area. Campbell stated that she was open to restoration ideas/conditions. The paved approach road should be included prior to the next meeting for approval.

Haro asked about the riprap along bank, will the new rip rap area match existing conditions in material and size. Brodie stated that it would be the same as existing riprap. There will be an increase in hydraulic capacity when they remove the sediments deposited under the bridge during the storm event. Campbell will research the numbers associated with hydraulic capacity.

Haro asked about equipment and construction. Campbell stated that equipment would be stored on flat area near access fence; there will be no clearing onsite associated with equipment storage. Brodie included that the work will be done with a cofferdam and turbidity curtain installed.

DeHoyos asked when work was expected to begin. Campbell stated as soon as possible; if it is not complete by March 3<sup>rd</sup> they will need to request an extension from FEMA.

Letourneau requested photos of site conditions prior to the storm event and reconstruction of the spillway. DiNardo will look for pictures taken by Ralph Kunkel, try to find pictures online, and review past OOCs for similar projects.

The Commission expressed concern about the length of the project. Brodie explained the total project would take around 4 months; sediment removal will take 1-2 days. Campbell added the work would be around 6 weeks in ground.

DeHoyos asked about the sequencing, would the bridge be repaired first. Campbell stated that she was not 100% sure. Last year the bridge was leveled and it might need to be secured again prior to the work.

Commissions requests for next meeting:

- Add pavement to plan.
- NHESP has until September 15<sup>th</sup> to issue comments.
- Receive a full set of plans (DiNardo will circulate via email before next meeting).
- Discuss restoration efforts (DiNardo will review past photos and make recommendation).
- Review Army Corp permit (regarding work extended past October 15, 2012).
- Discuss work sequence in more detail.

**MOTION:**            **Moved by DeHoyos, seconded by Letourneau, and voted 5-0 to continue the public hearing until the next regularly scheduled meeting (September 25, 2012).**

Other Business:

Eunice Williams Drive Project site review:

Mosher expressed concerns about the spillway reconstruction work. He believes the DEP should be more involved and possibly conduct a site visit. The willow plantings are dead; they were cut and planted incorrectly. There are Town Materials stored on site. The construction looks more like a roadway than a riverbank. Haro stated that the work was done without the Commissions approval; it was done through an emergency permit issued directly by the DEP. The Commission can speak with DEP directly to make suggestions and requests or the Commission can speak with the Town DPW about concerns. Mosher explained that he does not want the Green River in Greenfield to look similar to the Chickley River, which was done poorly under emergency permits. The Commission will continue working the Sara Campbell and will visit the site on their on time to think of any final suggestions. Campbell stated that the willow plantings did not survive and that they had two years to get the vegetation growing. The Town materials onsite will be used during the Covered Bridge

reconstruction project. Campbell will work with the Commissions requests prior to signing off on the project. Discussion will continue at the September 25, 2012 meeting.

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

Haro stated that he is still working on the ‘Permits and Conditions’ section. He has handouts for the Commissioners. DiNardo stated that DeHoyos emailed her a few short sections before the meeting, ‘Burden of Proof’, ‘Appeals’, and ‘Relation to the WPA’. ‘Burden of Proof’ has already been submitted and approved by the Commission. The Commission reviewed the ‘Appeals’ section which was taken from the MACC guidelines. DiNardo explained that the ‘Appeals’ section is referring to the Town appeal process. During a ten business day appeal period an applicant or aggrieved party can appeal the decision on a town and state level. This section refers to the town level only.

**MOTION: Moved by Letourneau, seconded by DeHoyos, and voted 5-0 to approve the ‘Appeals’ section as submitted by DeHoyos.**

For the next meeting: ‘Relation to the Wetlands Protection Act’ – review section submitted by Letourneau and by DeHoyos and make a final voting decision.  
‘Permits and Conditions’ – Haro has handouts, might circulate though email.

For future meetings: ‘Vernal Pools’ - Haro will draft some key points and the Commission will decide if this should be included in the ‘Definitions’ section.  
‘Enforcement - Violations and Penalties’ – the Commission discussed the section, Mosher will make a final draft for approval.

DiNardo passed out a progress spreadsheet dated 9/11/12.

#### Correspondence:

DiNardo introduced the new Commissioner, John Blasiak. He has been sworn in and is now an official member. Blasiak will not be voting on all matters, depending on his involvement or lack of involvement with the matter.

DiNardo read an email from Eric Twarog, Director of Planning, regarding Greenfield’s new comprehensive sustainable master plan. VHB is conducting interviews on Tuesday, October 9<sup>th</sup> and if the Commission is interested they could reserve a timeslot to be interviewed. The questions are about the Town/sustainability, not wetlands. DiNardo will forward the email to the Commissions to see if they are interested for available.

DeHoyos expressed concern about the 99 restaurant’s ‘vista pruning’. DiNardo stated she saw the cutting coming off the rotary. DeHoyos stated that the majority of the work was done near the MA state garage/chain link fence area. Haro suggests that we first find out who did the work, the state or the 99 restaurant. Haro stated the Commission had problems in this area before near staples when they cleared vegetation to the ground instead of leaving a 3-ft vegetation height as buffer. DiNardo will drive by the site, take photos, and speak with the person who conducted the work.

DeHoyos asked about the Mass DOT bridge work on the Greenfield Town line. The Commission updated DeHoyos that the work received all proper permitting. The Commission was notified through Ralph Kunkel a few years past. The were exempt from Commission review. If anyone sees any erosion control issues, please contact the DEP or DOT directly.

#### Monitoring:

Enforcement Updates:

Site Visits: DiNardo will be in contact if/when we receive an application.

Next Meeting: September 25, 2012 @ 7:00PM Department of Planning and Development, 114 Main Street.

Adjournment:

**MOTION: Moved by Letourneau, seconded by DeHoyos, and voted 5-0 to adjourn the meeting at 8:25 p.m.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Laura DiNardo  
Conservation Agent

Alex Haro  
Chair