



City known as the Town of  
**GREENFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS**

**CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

Town Hall • 14 Court Square • Greenfield, MA 01301  
Phone 413-772-1549 • Fax 413-772-1309  
Conservation@greenfield-ma.gov • www.greenfield-ma.gov

**William F. Martin**  
Mayor

*Members:*  
Blasiak, John (2015)  
Haro, Alex (2015)  
Letourneau, Dee (2014)  
Mosher, Timothy (2015)

**GREENFIELD CONSERVATION COMMISSION**  
**Minutes of Tuesday August 27, 2013**  
**7:00 p.m. Greenfield Department of Planning and Development**  
**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  
Timothy Mosher, Vice-Chair  
Dee Letourneau  
John Blasiak  
Maureen Pollock, Agent

**ALSO PRESENT:** John Lafleur  
Bob Lafleur  
Alan Twarog, Assistant Engineer for the Town of Greenfield  
Joe Sabella

Approval of Minutes:

Approval of Meeting Minutes from August 13, 2013.

**MOTION:** Moved by Blasiak, seconded by Mosher, no further discussion and voted 4-0-0 to accept the minutes from August 13, 2013, as amended.

Public Meetings/Hearings:

**7:15 PM RDA – Fargo Drive:** Request for the Determination of Applicability submitted by Robert Lafleur, for property located at Fargo Drive (Map R11, Parcel 2B), to determine whether the boundaries of resource area(s) depicted on the plan are accurately delineated.

Haro, Mosher, Blasiak, Pollock, Bob Lafleur, and Ward Smith, of Wendell Wetland Services conducted a site visit of the property on August 23, 2013. During the site visit, the group walked the delineated “bordering vegetated wetland” boundary line. Ward Smith took a few soil samples, showing the difference of soil types from above and below the wetland boundary. Ward delineated the wetland by hydric soil indicators and wetland indicator plants. Blasiak noticed a depressed wet area above flag 22, and requested the wetland boundary line be moved upslope to meet the existing drainage culvert instead of continuing the boundary eastward of flag 22. On behalf of Ward Smith, Bob and John Lafleur presented the updated plan to the Commission.

**MOTION:** Moved by Mosher, seconded by Blasiak, no further discussion and voted 3-0-1 (Letourneau abstained) to make a positive determination to the amended plan, box 2a, that the boundary



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**delineation of the resource area, “bordering vegetated wetland” as described on the referenced amended plan is confirmed as accurate. Therefore, the resource area boundary confirmed in this Determination is binding as to all decisions rendered pursuant to the Wetlands Protection Act and its regulations regarding such boundaries for as long as this Determination is valid.**

**7:30 PM Cont. NOI (DEP # 168-0289) - Stoneleigh-Burnham School:** Notice of Intent submitted by SVE Associates c/o Leslie Brown representing the Stoneleigh-Burnham School, for property located at 574 Bernardston Road (Map R15, Parcel 2), for work pertaining to a stream maintenance dredging operation, equestrian improvements, pond maintenance, new fore bay construction and a new outside arena.

Ward Smith requested a continuance to the next regularly scheduled meeting because he is still waiting to receive the Water Quality Certificate in order to move forward with the above-mentioned project.

**MOTION: Moved by Mosher, seconded by Letourneau, no further discussion and voted 4-0-0 to continue the hearing until Tuesday, September 10, 2013 at 7:30 PM**

Other Business:

DPW: Request for Permit Extension (DEP # 168-0244) Annual Maintenance: Green River Swim Area

Alan Twarog requests the Commission to approve the permit extension for the annual maintenance activities for the Green River Swim Area located at 31 Nash’s Mill Road. The original Order of Conditions was issued to the DPW in May 2006, and the permit extension has been approved until March 31, 2014. The Green River Swim Area has annual and periodic maintenance activities. The proposed annual list includes:

- stockpiling and re-spreading sand on the beach along the south bank of the Green River;
- setting the gates in place on the dam;
- removal of trees, stumps, and brush deposited against the dam during the spring;
- removal of mud/silt deposits from the beach area as required;
- grass mowing;
- rubbish clean-up and removal; and
- installation and removal of handicap accessible boardwalk and ramp.

The Commission requests Twarog provide the Commission with a complete list including annual and periodic maintenance activities. Pollock will research all activities in determining which are automatically permitted by the MassDEP under regular maintenance activities and the Greenfield Wetlands Protection Ordinance, and therefore do not need annual approval from the Commission. Once the activities are determined, the Commission and DPW will discuss whether a separate long-term management plan could be approved and, therefore eliminate annual approval from the Commission. A similar long-term management plan was approved by the Commission for the Highland Pond/Sachems’



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Head Management Plan in 2002. Maintenance activities that are not automatically approved by the MassDEP would still need annual approval by the Commission.

562 Leyden Road: Emergency Certificate

An emergency certificate was issued on July 24, 2013 to Joe Sabella of 562 Leyden Road for a culvert replacement along his private common drive. The replacement of the culvert is now complete, and Joe Sabella was present to explain the construction of the emergency replacement and to explain what steps have been taken to ensure the project is in compliance of the MA Wetlands Protection Act.

Sabella explained a 3-foot in diameter plastic culvert was installed, replacing a smaller collapsed culvert. The new culvert is embedded, allowing continuity. The contractor placed large untreated timber logs on both sides on the drive to reduce erosion. Haro and Pollock conducted a site visit after construction, observing the newly installed culvert is a little too short causing the banks to not be stabilized with steep slopes and bare soils. The bare soil is composed of road fill, which typically does not have organic matter, making re-vegetation more time consuming. While the banks are still bare, road erosion is likely to occur.

Pollock will speak with Mark Stinson, MassDEP on August 28, 2013 regarding what steps can be done to stabilize the banks. It is likely Sabella will need to file a Notice of Intent (NOI) with plans to the Commission, and the NOI will need to be approved before any work starts.

Griswold/GTD Conservation Area

Haro, Letourneau, Pollock, and Lincoln Fish conducted a site visit on August 15, 2013 to inspect the current conditions of the property, to create an inventory of what maintenance activities need to be done, and to look for a potential location for a commemorative bench in honor of Bill Griswold.

While inspecting the conditions of the property, Letourneau and Pollock created an inventory of what maintenance activities need to be done. Letourneau, Pollock and Fish located a potential spot for the commemorative bench in honor of Bill Griswold along the Stewardship Trail on the southern end of the conservation area. Discussion over installing educational posts at each station came up. Educational posts could provide diagrams and text highlighting the key elements at each station. The signs would need to be rot resistant. Pollock will research cost and expected life span of existing educational posts located at Harvard Forest in Petersham, MA. A directional sign may be needed for the northwest intersection on stewardship trail to guide walkers in the right direction.

Haro showed the Commission photos of a kiosk from the Hawley Bog Preserve. The Commission could build a similar kiosk. Haro will provide a cost estimate for the next Commission meeting.

Chapter 195: Wetlands Protection Ordinance: Waiver

The town council requests the Commission to explain the reasons why they include § 195-4. H. "Waiver" to the Greenfield Wetlands Protection Ordinance. Haro needs to research why some municipalities include "waivers" in their local wetland protection bylaw/ordinance and some do not. Pollock will ask Mark Stinson,



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MassDEP for any documentation and/or examples that he could share with Haro.

Right of First Refusal (Chapter 61 B) – Golf Course: Letter to the Mayor

Pollock drafted a letter stating that it might be in the town's best interest to preserve the jurisdictional wetland resources that exist on this Chapter 61B property. The property contains a riverfront area (Green River and Deerfield River), resource areas and associated buffer zones, and the Massachusetts Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program (NHESP) Priority Habitat of Rare Species (PH id#1337).

**MOTION:** Moved by Letourneau, seconded by Blasiak, no further discussion and voted 4-0-0 to accept the letter with signatures from the Commission and deliver the letter to the Mayor.

Project Monitoring:

None

Enforcement Updates/Possible Violations:

**80 Homestead Avenue:** Blasiak conducted a site visit to ensure all dumped materials have been removed and the stream is flowing back to where it is supposed to be. Blasiak observed the property owners have removed all dumped materials and the stream has been restored to its original channel. The property owners agreed to not enter into the "No Disturb Zone" to the "bordering vegetated wetlands" and to allow natural vegetation to establish itself there.

Correspondence:

**Maynard Pond dumping: Letter in the Recorder:** Pollock wrote a letter to the concerned resident. There has not been response back.

**270 Deerfield Street 'Brookie' Sculpture Park (Map 19, Parcel 44):** The Commission again requests a site visit with the planning department and recommends the planning department to submit an RDA for the work. Pollock will look into the status of this project.

Site Visit Scheduling:

1. **127 Thayer Road Extension** – Meet August 30, 2013 at 4:30PM on site
2. **270 Deerfield Street – 'Brookie' Sculpture Park** – Meet August 30, 2013 at 5:00PM on site



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Next Meeting:

7 PM on Tuesday, September 10, 2013, at the Greenfield Department of Planning and Development; 114 Main Street

Adjournment:

**MOTION: Moved by Blasiak, seconded by Letourneau, no further discussion and voted 4-0-0 to adjourn the meeting at 8:34 PM.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Maureen Pollock  
Conservation Agent  
Via digital recording

Alex Haro  
Chair