



William F. Martin  
Mayor

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

**CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

Town Hall • 14 Court Square • Greenfield, MA 01301  
Phone 413-772-1551 • Fax 413-772-1309  
Conservation@greenfield-ma.gov • www.greenfield-ma.gov

**Members:**

Blasiak, John (2016)  
DeHoyos, Thomas (2016)  
Haro, Alex (2015)  
Letourneau, Dee (2014)  
Mosher, Timothy (2015)

**GREENFIELD CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

**Minutes of Tuesday March 11, 2014**

**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  
Tim Mosher, Vice-chair  
Tom DeHoyos  
John Blasiak

**ALSO PRESENT:** Matthew Waldrip, BSC Group  
Paul Knapik, BSC Group  
Maureen Pollock, Assistant Planner & Conservation Agent

**ABSENT:** Dee Letourneau

Approval of Minutes:

Approval of Meeting Minutes from January 28, 2014.

**MOTION:** Moved by Mosher, seconded by Blasiak, no further discussion and voted 4-0-0 to accept the minutes from January 28, 2014, as amended.

Approval of Meeting Minutes from March 4, 2014.

**MOTION:** Moved by Mosher, seconded by Blasiak, no further discussion and voted 4-0-0 to put the March 4, 2014 meeting minutes on hold until the regularly scheduled meeting.

Public Meetings/Hearings:

**7:10 RDA – Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority, 12 Olive Street:** Request for Determination of Applicability submitted by Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA), for property located at 12 Olive Street (Assessors Map 29 Lot 36A), to determine whether the area and work is subject to the Wetlands Protection Act and the Town of Greenfield Wetlands Protection Ordinance. Proposed work pertains to the construction of the Greenfield Train Station.

Christopher Wagner, a representative for the applicant requests for a continuance to the next regularly scheduled meeting because he anticipates a revised plan for the train station will be submitted at the next meeting.



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**MOTION:** Moved by Mosher, seconded by DeHoyos, no further discussion and voted 4-0-0 to continue the hearing until Tuesday, March 25, 2014

**7:25 NOI (DEP # 168-0296) - New England Power Company dba National Grid, French King Highway and Silvio O Conte Drive:** Notice of Intent submitted by New England Power Company dba National Grid, for property located at the French King Highway (Assessors Map R04, Lot 53) and Silvio O Conte Drive (Assessors Map R05, Lot 29), for the drilling of exploratory and geotechnical soil borings on an existing maintained electric utility right of way (ROW).

Matthew Waldrip and Paul Knapik, representatives for the applicant, were present to explain the scope of work to the proposed project. The proposed work includes the drilling of 22 exploratory borings, which are necessary for planning and design associated with future improvements to the existing electric transmission system. 10 exploratory borings in the 100-foot buffer zone or 200-foot Riverfront Area but outside of any other resource area are exempt from filing under the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act (the Act) per 310 CMR 10.02(2)(b)(1)(g) and 310 CMR 10.58(6)(b), respectively. 12 exploratory borings are not exempt and an Order of Conditions is needed to perform this work, including 4 exploratory borings proposed within Bordering Vegetated Wetland (BVW); 3 exploratory borings proposed within Bordering Land Subject to Flooding (BLSF), and 3 exploratory borings proposed within the local 25-foot No Disturb Zone (NDZ). The work will require the temporary placement of swamp mats over BVW and BLSF for drilling equipment to access the proposed boring locations.

The applicant is requesting that the Commission grant a waiver for the provisions of the Greenfield Wetlands Protection Ordinance §195-2B(1), and allow work within the 25-foot No Disturb Zone.

A small track-mounted drill rig will be used to perform the borings. Each boring hole will be between approximately 4-6 inches in diameter and 20-30 feet deep, depending on the conditions encountered. Crews are expected to spend less than a day at each bore site, but work could extend to approximately 1-2 days at each location depending on the conditions encountered. Crews will be re-circulating drilling fluids in a contained tub; therefore, no drilling spoils will be left on site. If soils remain after the hole is backfilled, they will be disposed of in an upland area. Drilling activities are typically completed using a 20' x 20' work area.

Existing cart paths and regularly used access roads within the ROW will serve as the primary means of access for boring equipment. Upgrades and improvements to existing access roads are not needed. At 4 locations, BVW will be crossed using temporary swamp matting. The proposed swamp mats will provide a stable work pad for the drill rig as well as protect the wetland substrate from rut damage. No tree clearing is proposed. However, shrubs will be tamped down or cleared away from the work area to allow for the placement of mats. Upon completion, the



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disturbed work area for the exploratory borings will be backfilled to restore the contours to original condition. The swamp mats are temporary, and will be removed after the holes are filled. Disturbed work areas will be seeded and lightly mulched to provide temporary vegetative cover.

Wood chip bales will be installed down-gradient of all activities in buffer zone. These controls will function to mitigate construction-related erosion and sedimentation, and will also serve as a physical boundary to delineate work areas to contain construction activities within approved locations.

A filing has been sent to Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program (NHESP), the Massachusetts Historical Commission and the Army Corps of Engineers. Knapik stated no native burials have been discovered on the parcels.

David Foulis (MassDEP) has determined that this project does not need an individual 401 Water Quality Certification under 314 CMR 9.00.

Wetland resource areas along the project route were delineated in the spring of 2013. The applicant did not have the delineation approved by the Commission.

DeHoyos stated he would like to conduct a site visit in order to see the wetland flagging, access points, proposed swamp mat locations and proposed exploratory borings within the 25-foot NDZ and within resource areas.

Knapik stated that he will refresh all wetland flagging before the Commissioners conduct the site visit. The borings have not been stalked out yet, but he will assist the Commissioners with locating each exploratory boring.

Haro inquired whether any vernal pools have been identified during the delineation.

Knapik responded, he and Waldrip looked for vernal pools but no indicators were identified.

Knapik stated that crews will use the existing maintained ROW as much as possible in order to minimize disturbance to resource areas.

Knapik stated the applicant would like to start the project in late April or May 2014.

Blasiak stated he is concerned about work to be conducted in April, which is prime amphibian mating season. Blasiak inquired what protocol(s) are to be used during construction that will ensure the protection of the resource areas and the amphibians that inhabit them.

Knapik responded that a wildlife biologist or a wetland scientist will work with the matting crew within the open water and try to go in the scrub swamp, if needed. Laying of each swamp mat to



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removal of each swamp mat will take approximately 1-2 days. Afterwards, these disturb work areas will be seeded and straw mulched

Haro inquired what the monitoring plans for this project are

Knapik responded he will provide before, during, and after construction photographs

**MOTION: Moved by Mosher, seconded by DeHoyos, no further discussion and voted 4-0-0 to continue the hearing after the site visit has been conducted**

Other Business:

**Draft Chapter 195, Greenfield Wetlands Protection Ordinance:** The Appointments & Ordinance Committee (A&O Com) will be holding a public hearing regarding the draft Ordinance on March 26, 2014. Haro will represent the Commission during the public hearing.

DeHoyos suggested the Commission should invite a Massachusetts Association of Conservation Commissions (MACC) representative to the public hearing in order to provide the A&O Com rationale on the MACC model ordinance. Pollock will ask the A&O Com Chair, David Singer if it is acceptable to invite a MACC representative. If so, Pollock will contact a MACC representative.

Haro stated the A&O Com wants a clear description of what changed.

Mosher stated MassDEP will be promulgating wetlands and waterways regulatory revisions in Spring/Summer 2014, and wonders how the MassDEP revisions will affect the local ordinance.

Project Monitoring:

**148 Montague City Road (Assessor's Map 1, Lot 3):** Pollock inspected the installed sedimentation and erosion controls during a pre-construction site visit on February 20, 2014 and states the controls have been satisfactorily installed

Enforcement Updates/Possible Violations:

**208 Mohawk Trail (old Candlelight Hotel):** Pollock updated the Commission that she received testing materials for the soil samples needed. Blasiak volunteered to assist Pollock with sampling.

**MassDEP Enforcement Update: Leyden Road (Assessor's Map R22, Lot 19B):** Pollock updated the Commission of the alleged violations. Upon a MassDEP inspection of the property, it was determined that the property owner cleared and re-graded portions of Riverfront Areas at the property without first filing a Notice of Intent to do so with the Commission. MassDEP requests that



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the property owner attend an Enforcement Conference in order discuss the alleged violations and to reach a negotiated settlement with MassDEP to return to compliance

Correspondence:

**28 Sunset Square (Assessor's Map 42, Lot 2):** Pollock received a telephone call from Richard Hillman, representative for the property owner regarding the proposed work needed, including the reconstruction of a retaining wall, attached porch/sunroom, and drainage pipes. Hillman mentioned that it gets wet behind the property, and he wants to determine whether it is jurisdictional. Pollock will conduct a site visit, and will report back to the Commission

**MassWoods:** Pollock updated the Commission about the posters received from the UMASS Natural Resources & Environmental Conservation Program. The posters advertise the website, [www.MassWoods.net](http://www.MassWoods.net) which was launched to promote informed landowner decisions. MassWoods provides landowners with information on: land trusts & foresters working with their town; conservation-based estate planning and professionals; Ch. 61 current use tax programs; selling timber, including quarterly stumpage prices; forestry programs (Forest Stewardship, Wildlife habitat); and Keystone Project training for local conservation leaders. Posters will be hung in the Town Hall and in the Planning Department office.

Pollock contacted Paul Catanzaro, UMASS Professor about hosting a Woods Forum event in Greenfield in the coming months.

**Revisions to MassDEP Wetlands, Waterways, and Water Quality Certification Regulations:** Pollock informed the Commission that the MassDEP will be promulgating wetlands and waterways regulatory revisions in spring 2014. Prior to the effective date, application forms will be revised. Mark Stinson (MassDEP) plans to hold an informational workshop in Greenfield TBD regarding these revisions.

**Sustainable Master Plan:** The Master Plan Committee is considering different options for Commission involvement with the implementation of the Sustainable Master Plan, e.g. either designate one Commissioner to serve on the implementation committee or invite one Commissioner (when needed) to weigh in on implementation measures related to wetlands and/or conservation lands. Pollock inquired whether any of the Commissioners had interest in representing the Commission. Blasiak offered to serve. Pollock will inform the Master Plan Committee of Blasiak's interest.

Site Visit Scheduling:

**New England Power Company dba National Grid, French King Highway and Silvio O Conte Drive (DEP#168-0296) – TBD**



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Next Meeting:

7:00 PM on Tuesday, March 25, 2014, at the Greenfield Department of Planning and Development; 114 Main Street

Adjournment:

**MOTION: Moved by Mosher, seconded by DeHoyos, no further discussion and voted 4-0-0 to adjourn the meeting at 8:50 PM.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Maureen Pollock  
Assistant Planner & Conservation Agent

Alex Haro  
Chair