



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 25, 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: Scott Morrision, EcoTec, Inc.
Frank Wheeler
Frank Morsey
Dale Putnam
Robert Natario, MassDOT
Mark Stinson, MassDEP
Maureen Pollock, Assistant Planner & Conservation Agent

ABSENT: Dee Letourneau

Approval of Minutes:

Approval of Meeting Minutes from March 4, 2014.

MOTION: Moved by Mosher, seconded by DeHoyos, no further discussion and voted 3-0-1 (Blasiak abstained) to accept the minutes from March 4, 2014, as amended.

Approval of Meeting Minutes from March 11, 2014.

MOTION: Moved by Mosher, seconded by DeHoyos, no further discussion and voted 4-0-0 to accept the minutes from March 11, 2014, as amended

Public Meetings/Hearings:

7:10 Amended NOI (DEP # 168-0270) Shelburne Falls Congregation of Jehovah Witnesses: Amendment to a Notice of Intent, submitted by Shelburne Falls Congregation of Jehovah's Witnesses, for property located at 290 Shelburne Road (Assessors Map R25, Lot 31A), for the restoration work required by the Enforcement Order; herbicide treatment of Japanese knotweed; planting of native plants; removal of concrete block foundation walls; and installation of a shed.



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Scott Morrison, EcoTec, Inc., Frank Wheeler, Frank Morsey, and Dale Putnam were present to explain the proposed activities at the property in mention. On October 16, 2013, the Commission issued the applicants an Enforcement Order for the clearing and re-grading outside the limit of work. The applicants were required to hire a wetland specialist to prepare and submit a restoration plan for area disturbed outside the limit of work showing compliance with the Wetlands Protection regulations and the Greenfield Wetlands Ordinance. Scott Morrison presented the restoration plan, which includes a planting list of native woody species. Additionally, the applicants request removal of the concrete block foundation; construction of a 12 ft X 20 ft shed; herbicide application for Japanese Knotweed with planting of native species along the stream.

The recently built Kingdom Hall is 5,000 square feet smaller than originally permitted by the Commission.

Morrison stated the concrete block foundation would only be removed to existing grade, and not below grade. Erosion control barrier consisting of properly entrenched siltation fencing will be installed just outside (approximately 1-2 feet) of the impact area and foundation leaving enough room for the excavator or backhoe to reach the fill. Upon completion of the re-grading of the side slopes where the foundation exists, top soil shall be placed within the area to a depth of 6 inches. The disturbed areas will be seeded with an erosion control seed mixture and mulched with straw. The following plantings will be planted within the restoration area, including 7 samplings of sugar maples and gray birch and 20 shrubs such as highbush blueberry, arrow-wood, staghorn sumac, and silky dogwood.

The applicant requests the use of herbicide treatment for Japanese knotweed along the stream. The knotweed would be treated by cutting the knotweed stems, followed with a stem by stem injection of an approved glyphosate-based herbicide.

Haro stated that a licensed herbicide applicator should show church organizers how to safely and effectively apply the herbicide application.

Morsey stated the church has a licensed applicator and that he could show the church.

Blasiak stated wicking is a more effective way to apply the herbicide than spraying. Unlike spray, wicking allows direct application.

Blasiak inquired what measures have the applicants done to stabilize the erodible bank that has already been treated for Japanese Knotweed

Morsey stated there was other vegetation along the bank that re-established itself. The existing silt fencing, strawbales, and stone swales minimized erosion.

Blasiak stated after the knotweed is treated, low growing shrubs (e.g. low bush blueberry; low bush



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blackberry) should be planted. Re-establishing the area with low growing shrubs will help stabilize the area and promote more wildlife.

Morrison stated the applicant proposes a 12 foot by 20 foot shed on the lawn adjacent to the existing parking lot. The proposed shed would be built on concrete blocks, and would not require concrete footings.

Morrison stated the applicant will either pitch the runoff to the parking lot or construct a pea-stone apron around the shed

Haro stated that 2 growing seasons of monitoring should be required for all new planting

Blasiak stated his concerns regarding the disturbance to existing vegetation caused by removal of the concrete foundation.

Morrison stated the areas that the foundation will be removed will be graded to meet the grade level of the restoration areas.

MOTION: Moved by Mosher, seconded by DeHoyos, no further discussion and voted 4-0-0 to close the public hearing and issue an Amended Order of Conditions for DEP # 168-0270 under the Wetlands Protection Act, with the following conditions:

1. Boiler Plate Special Conditions

Special Conditions for Japanese Knotweed Control:

- 2. Japanese knotweed shall be treated by cutting the knotweed stems at six (6) inches height in late summer, followed with a stem by stem injection or wicking of an approved glyphosate-based herbicide. Spraying of glyphosate-based herbicide shall not be allowed. Cutting and glyphosate-based herbicide application shall be repeated annually**
- 3. Japanese Knotweed cuttings shall be bagged and removed off site**
- 4. Any additional changes made for controlling the Japanese Knotweed (that is not specified in Special Condition #2 and #3 for Japanese Knotweed Control), shall require the applicant to come before the Commission for approval.**

Special Conditions for Shed:

- 5. Stormwater runoff shall be diverted to the parking lot or a peastone apron shall be constructed around the shed**
- 6. Permanent foundation for the shed shall not be constructed.**
- 7. The shed shall be built on top of concrete or wooden blocks.**



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Special Conditions for Restoration Area:

8. **Silt fencing with straw bales shall be installed prior to construction, and the Conservation Commission and/or the Conservation Agent shall be notified at least three (3) days prior to commencement of work so that silt fencing with straw bales can be inspected. Silt fencing with straw bales shall remain in place until all disturbed areas are re-vegetated and stabilized.**
9. **Concrete foundation shall only be removed to existing grade. Concrete foundation below grade shall not be removed**
10. **Concrete foundation shall be removed by hand or light equipment. Heavy equipment shall not be used for removal**
11. **All plantings shall be monitored for two growing seasons**

MOTION: Moved by Mosher, seconded by DeHoyos, no further discussion and voted 3-0-1 (Blasiak abstained) to approve the Japanese Knotweed invasive management within the 25 foot No Disturb Zone per Greenfield Wetlands Ordinance, Chapter § 195-4H "Waiver."

7:25 RDA - Mass DOT: Request for Determination of Applicability submitted by Mass DOT-Highway Division, District 2 for property located along a section of Interstate 91, to determine whether the boundaries of resource area(s) depicted on plans and maps are accurately delineated.

Robert Natario, MassDOT was present to explain the proposed work. The proposed work involves the application of herbicides to control "target vegetation" along I-91 Northbound and Southbound Right-of-Ways in accordance with the Rights of Way Management regulations (333 CMR 11.00) and the Massachusetts Highway Department's Vegetation Management Plan (VMP) and Yearly Operational Plan (YOP). Work will begin at the Deerfield/Greenfield Town Line and proceeding northerly to the Greenfield/Bernardston Town Line.

Herbicide application will be applied under the guardrails, around sign posts, along walls, barriers, curbs, berms, pavement cracks, in areas of poison ivy, vehicular recovery zones, and other areas where undesirable vegetation causes an unsafe condition, or impedes highway maintenance operations.

At select locations, herbicides may also be utilized to establish wildflower beds. Applicators will hold a valid pesticide certification/license from the Department of Agricultural Resources (DAR) and will adhere to the operational guidelines as set forth in the VMP and the YOP.

MassDOT hopes to conduct work in June 2014, which should take approximately one day to complete. Each guardrail section to be marked and/or refreshed before spraying commences.



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Stinson stated that the Commission should include a condition that states “the approved boundaries shall be used for the purposes of MassDOT only.”

Haro stated that the Commission will hold off approving the project until Pollock and Blasiak conduct a site visit of work areas.

MOTION: Moved by Mosher, seconded by DeHoyos, no further discussion and voted 4-0-0 to continue the hearing until Tuesday, April 8, 2014

7:40 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.

MOTION: Moved by Mosher, seconded by DeHoyos, no further discussion and voted 4-0-0 to continue the hearing until Tuesday, April 8, 2014

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.

Eugene Benson, Executive Director for the Massachusetts Association of Conservation Commissions (MACC) submitted a letter to the Commission regarding the MACC Wetlands Bylaw/Ordinance Model and rationale for local ordinances to include provisions on wetland replications and waivers. Pollock will submit the letter to the A&O Com for public record.

Project Monitoring:

Enforcement Updates/Possible Violations:

208 Mohawk Trail (old Candlelight Hotel): Pollock conducted a site visit of the property to see if the soil conditions are ready for soil samples. Pollock observed snow cover over all soil mounds; therefore, will hold off conducting the sampling until the mounds are exposed and not frozen.



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Pollock will send Barlow a letter informing him of this update and time extension for full test result to May 13, 2014

Correspondence:

28 Sunset Square (Assessor's Map 42, Lot 2): Pollock conducted a site visit on March 17, 2014. Pollock recommends the applicant to have the property delineated for wetlands and file a Request for Determination of Applicability.

Adams Road (Assessor's Map R05, Lot 28): Pollock spoke to an interested buyer of the property in mention, who wants to build a church. According to MassGIS, there are wetlands on the property. Pollock advised the interested buyer to have the property delineated for wetlands and file a Request for Determination of Applicability so the Commission can confirm the boundary delineation of a resource area(s). After the boundaries have been approved, the interested buyer will need to file a Notice of Intent for all proposed activities.

Mosher advises the interested buyer to review the property's deed for any restrictions.

Site Visit Scheduling:

1. **New England Power Company dba National Grid, French King Highway and Silvio O Conte Drive (DEP#168-0296)** – Meet April 2, 2014 at 4:00PM on site
2. **Mass DOT – I-91 RDA:** Meet March 27, 2014 at 9:00AM on site

Next Meeting:

7:00 PM on Tuesday, April 8, 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 9:03 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Maureen Pollock
Assistant Planner & Conservation Agent

Alex Haro
Chair