



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 (2014)
Letourneau, Dee (2014)
Mosher, Timothy (2015)

GREENFIELD CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Minutes of Tuesday June 17, 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
Thomas DeHoyos
John Blasiak

ALSO PRESENT: Bill Lattrell, Lattrell Ecological Consulting
Terry Reynolds, T Reynolds Engineering
Martha Naley, US Fish & Wildlife Service
Kenneth Sprinkle, US Fish & Wildlife Service
Maureen Pollock, Assistant Planner & Conservation Agent

ABSENT: Dee Letourneau

Approval of Minutes:

Approval of Meeting Minutes from May 29, 2014.

MOTION: Moved by Blasiak, seconded by DeHoyos, no further discussion and voted 3-0-1 (Mosher abstained) to accept the minutes from May 29, 2014, as amended.

Public Meetings/Hearings:

7:10 RDA – 26 Barton Road: Request for Determination of Applicability submitted by Lattrell Ecological Consulting c/o Carolyn Bellany, for the property located at 26 Barton Lane (Assessors Map R20, Lot 25), to determine whether the work proposed for the installation of a Title 5 replacement septic system is subject to the MA Wetlands Protection Act and the Town of Greenfield Wetlands Protection Ordinance.

Bill Lattrell, Lattrell Ecological Consulting was present to explain the wetland delineation and proposed plans. The wetlands on this parcel have been delineated in the field and a report regarding the delineation, along with the MA DEP data sheets have been submitted. Pollock walked wetland flags A-1 through A-26 of the bordering vegetated wetlands on June 17, 2014. All work will be



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located more than 50 feet from the wetland. A haybale siltation barrier is proposed to prevent any degradation of the nearby wetland. There will be re-grading done for the low mound leaching field. The existing septic tank will be crushed and buried on-site. There will no removal of vegetation. Placement of fill will be located more than 50 feet from the wetland.

Mosher stated he would prefer the contractor use a straw wattle or silt sock instead of a silt fencing and straw bale.

MOTION: Moved by Mosher, seconded by DeHoyos, no further discussion and voted 4-0-0 to close the public meeting.

MOTION: Moved by Mosher, seconded by DeHoyos, no further discussion and voted 4-0-0 to make a positive determination, box 2a, the boundary delineation of Flags A-1 through A-26 for the Bordering Vegetated Wetlands described on the referenced plan are confirmed as accurate. Therefore, the resource area boundaries confirmed in this Determination are binding as to all decisions rendered pursuant to the Wetlands Protection Act and its regulation regarding such boundaries for as long as this Determination is valid.

MOTION: Moved by Mosher, seconded by DeHoyos, no further discussion and voted 4-0-0 to make a negative determination, box 3, the work described in the Request is within the Buffer Zone, as defined in the regulations, but will not alter an Area subject to protection under the Act. Therefore, said work does not require the filing of a Notice of Intent, subject to conditions

7:25 NOI – 562 Leyden Road: Notice of Intent submitted by Joseph Sabella, for the property located at 562 Leyden Road (Assessors Map R30, Lot 3), for the activities associated with the proposed replacement stream crossing.

Terry Reynolds was present to explain the proposed plan to replace the failing stream crossing on the existing private drive at the property located at 562 Leyden Road with a 6 foot DIA aluminum open bottom arch. The existing 36 inch DIA HDPE culvert was approved under an Emergency Permit by the Commission on July 24, 2013 to restore safe passage to the residential homes located along the crossing with only longitudinal logs laid at the tops of the banks to provide stabilization.

Jurisdictional resource areas have been identified and delineated within proximity of the project area. The project as designed is intended to have minimal impact on adjacent bank areas and water quality. Additionally, the work area will be isolated as needed using standard erosion control barriers, while the implementation of BMPs will reduce and minimize indirect impacts to the maximum extent practicable.

Normal stream flow will be maintained throughout the duration of the culvert replacement project.



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Work will begin with the installation of erosion control barriers and coffer dams across the stream both upstream and down stream of the culvert. The logs laid along the top of bank will be relocated off-site or to an area outside jurisdictional areas. Material will be excavated along the proposed culvert replacement area and bank to allow for the installation of a new open bottom arch and stabilization stone. Stone above the water elevation will be separated from the lower stone with a layer of geotextile fabric. Stone placed above the water line will be mixed with erosion control compost grouting along with 3 inches of erosion control compost grouting on top of the stone. Additionally, a French drain will be installed across the driveway to the east of the culvert replacement to intercept groundwater flows that are undercutting the drive and depositing sediment into the stream. A discharge will be pumped into the adjacent hayfield, which will filter the water before re-entering the wetland. Final road grading and installation of a guard rail will be done following the bank stabilization. Following the completion of all work and stabilization of any disturbed area, the sediment barrier will be removed.

Approximately 127 feet of land under waterbody will be lost during construction, but approximately 162 feet of land under waterbody will be gained with the installation of the open-bottom arch. Natural occurring substrate will be placed in the bottom to restore stream channel bottom.

Haro inquired how long will the construction period be.

Reynolds responded he anticipates it will last 2-3 days.

Pollock inquired whether banks will be present on each side of the stream matching horizontal profile of the existing waterbody and banks.

Reynolds responded the banks adjacent to the culvert will be stabilized using rip rap with erosion control grouting to allow for a vegetated surface. Rip Rap slopes will be set at approximately 1.5:1.

Blasiak inquired what will stop gravel from drive to enter the waterbody.

Reynolds responded the vegetated slope will reduce the amount sediment entering the waterbody.

Blasiak stated he is concerned possible erosion gullies be created, which will cause sediment to go into the waterbody. Stated he would like to see the banks stabilized.

Haro inquired whether the gravel drive will be more arched then currently.

Reynolds responded yes.

Reynolds stated he could berm up the side slope under each guard rail as a way to prevent sediment from going into the waterbody.



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Reynolds stated he may need to remove one American Sycamore (*Platanus occidentalis*) adjacent to the culvert.

Reynolds stated he can put stone where the French drain discharges on the downslope.

Mosher stated he does not want a scour pool to occur on the downslope.

Reynolds stated he could put a stone line dissipater basin on the downslope.

Haro inquired what the natural substrate is.

Reynolds responded the natural substrate is silty loam.

Pollock inquired whether fish screens will be installed around the intake of bypass pipes.

Reynolds responded he had not planned to install fish screens, but he can.

DeHoyos inquired where the staging area will be located.

Reynolds responded on the east side of the culvert.

Reynolds stated it will take 2-3 days to get the private drive re-stabilized. The whole project will take up to 2 weeks, weather dependant.

Reynolds stated spoils will get hauled off-site to an upland location.

Reynolds stated he will monitor the weather forecast to avoid working during severe weather events.

MOTION: Moved by Mosher, seconded by DeHoyos, no further discussion and voted 4-0-0 to close the public hearing and issue an Order of Conditions for DEP # 168-0298 under the Wetlands Protection Act and Greenfield Wetlands Protection Ordinance, with the following special conditions:

1. A 34 foot long berm made of hardpack gravel shall be installed below each guard rail. The berm shall be a minimum of 3 inches above the road surface and shall extend 2 feet beyond the end of each side of the riprap;
2. A 3 foot by 3 foot stone dissipator shall be installed on the east bank at the downstream;
3. Fish screens shall be installed around the intake of bypass pipes;
4. No re-fueling of equipment shall occur within a resource area;
5. If the American Sycamore (*Platanus occidentalis*) adjacent to the culvert is damaged or destabilized to such an extent that its survival is compromised then



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the tree may be removed, if needed during construction. If the tree is removed, then the tree shall be cut above ground level and the stump left in the ground. The multiflora rose/oriental bittersweet community adjacent to the tree shall be removed without excessive disturbance of the soil, and another American Sycamore shall be planted within 20 feet of the pre-existing tree. Maintenance of the new American Sycamore shall be required to assure health and growth through two growing seasons. If tree dies and/or is damaged, a tree replacement and maintenance for two additional growing seasons shall be required.

- 6. The contractor shall always have a backup pump available for handling stormflows and taking more water if the primary pump malfunction or not adequately sized;**
- 7. Replacing the road-stream crossing shall take place during periods of low flow, July 1 through September 30;**
- 8. Dewatering activities shall be conducted as shown on the approved plans and shall be monitored daily to ensure that sediment-laden water is appropriately settled prior to discharge toward the wetland resource areas. No discharge shall be allowed directly into an area subject to jurisdiction of the Wetlands Protection Act.**
- 9. All dredge spoils shall be dewatered and disposed of at an upland location, or as indicated on the approved plan.**
- 10. Open slopes shall be covered with plastic prior to forecasted precipitation events exceeding 2/10 inches of precipitation.**

Other Business:

Fall River Dam Spillway Removal Project – Martha Naley and Kenneth Sprankle, US Fish & Wildlife Service were present to informally discuss the plan to remove the remains of the breached dam located on the Fall River, which flows into the Connecticut River. The breached dam is on a private property less than 1 mile north of the end of Factory Hollow Road on the Gill and Greenfield town line.

Pollock inquired if the dam is considered jurisdictional to the Office of Dam Safety (ODS) at the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) and whether Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act (MEPA) filing with an Environmental Notification Form will be required

Naley responded ODS determined the dam to be non-jurisdictional. The dam has already breached, and now filled with sediment. MEPA filing would be necessary only if the ODS had deemed the dam to be jurisdictional or if other MEPA thresholds are triggered. MEPA thresholds have not been triggered.



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Naley stated access into and out of the site will be on existing paved and dirt road except for one hard bottom river crossing. The stream crossing will occur during low flow and follow an existing utility line corridor. The stream crossing of the excavator may result in a temporary disturbance of 30 linear feet of bank, which will be restored, if necessary. No wetlands, no streambank, no land under waterways, no riverfront, and no NHESP Priority or Estimated Habitat will be permanently adversely affected by this project.

Naley stated a temporary excavator pad will be constructed next to the dam spillway from which the excavator can safely work. The pad will be in place for approximately 5 days. The pad will be constructed out of on-site material mostly from the dam spillway itself. The plan is to pull the rock spillway into the river to allow the excavator to reach the far bank. The pad will be 15 feet by 25 feet and will mostly likely be placed immediately upstream of the spillway. The construction and use of the pad will result in a temporary impact to land under the waterways. After the spillway is removed, the materials will be removed and re-distributed to create instream fish habitat, and/or place excess material in upland above the floodplain.

Blasiak inquired what the elevation difference is between the top of sediment to the bottom of the pool

Naley responded approximately 16 feet.

Blasiak inquired once the dam spillway is removed, will this create a 7 feet gully/thalweg

Naley responded yes.

Blasiak inquired how much square footage is impounded behind the dam

Naley responded the trapezoidal spillway is 30 feet long, 8 feet high, and 8 feet thick at the bottom (5 feet thick at the top). The footprint of the spillway is 240 square feet.

Blasiak inquired if the applicant plans to protect the area from invasive species and what will happen to the vegetation after the gully/thalweg is created.

Haro stated a site visit is needed.

Pollock stated she will invite the Gill Conservation Commission and ask if they would like to hold a joint public hearing the project.

Cabot Taps Separation Project: Expanded Environmental Notification Form and Waiver Request - An Expanded Environmental Notification Form (EENF) has been filed with the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs to separate and upgrade two existing 115 kV transmission lines (the "Y177" and "B128" lines) over a distance of approximately 2.7 miles in



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Greenfield and Montague. The purpose of the project is to address reliability issues in the Pittsfield-Greenfield area. The Y177 and 126 lines will each be transferred to 27 steel utility poles with new conductors and steel shield wires, resulting in 54 new monopoles that are 20 to 50 feet taller than the existing 24 steel lattice towers, which will be removed. Each line will also require one three-pole dead end structure and one H-frame structures resulting in 29 structures for each line. Two miles of the project will occur within the existing right-of-way and 0.7 miles (18.8 acres) will be located in a new ROW between the Power Canal and Montague Substation. The project will convert approximately 3.9 acres of forested wetland to scrub-shrub wetland.

The project exceeds the threshold for a mandatory EIR at 301 CMR 11.03(3)(a)(1)(a), Alteration of one or more acres of bordering vegetated wetlands. The project will require a 401 Water Quality Certificate from MassDEP, review by the Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program, consultation with the Massachusetts Historical Commission, and permits from MassDOT to access state highways and cross state roads with utility lines. The EENF includes a request for a waiver from the requirement to prepare an EIR, and, in the event that an EIR is required, a request that a Single EIR be allowed.

A public consultation session will be held to receive advice and comments from agencies, officials, and citizens regarding which environmental issues, if any, are significant for this project. Opinions as to the extent and significance of possible environmental impact, will be welcome. Comments are also sought regarding the Proponent's waiver request and request for a Single EIR.

MEPA consultation session scheduled for: Wednesday, June 18, 2014 at 10:00 AM on the third floor of the Greenfield Community College at 270 Main Street in Greenfield. A site visit including both Greenfield and Montague portions of the project will be conducted after the consultation session.

Pollock and Blasiak will attend the session.

Project Monitoring:

Green River Covered Bridge Rehabilitation, Eunice Williams Drive (DEP #168-0286): Pollock attended an on-site construction meeting on June 11, 2014. The sediment and erosion controls are being properly maintained. All materials are uphill from the sediment and erosion controls and are not entering the waterway.

Enforcement Updates/Possible Violations:

Correspondence:



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Site Visit Scheduling:

1. **Fall River Dam Spillway Removal Project** – Meet July 8, 2014 at 4:00PM on site

Next Meeting:

7:00 PM on Tuesday, July 8, 2014, at the Greenfield Department of Planning and Development;
114 Main Street

Adjournment:

MOTION: Moved by DeHoyos, seconded by Blasiak, no further discussion and voted 4-0-0 to adjourn the meeting at 9:25 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Maureen Pollock
Assistant Planner & Conservation Agent

Alex Haro
Chair