



William F. Martin
Mayor

City known as the Town of
GREENFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

Members:
Blasiak, John (2016)
DeHoyos, Thomas (2016)
Mosher, Timothy (2015)

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

GREENFIELD CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Minutes of Tuesday July 8, 2014

**7:00 p.m. Greenfield Department of Planning and Development
114 Main Street**

The meeting was called to order by Vice-chair, Tim Mosher at 7:00 p.m. with the following members:

PRESENT: Tim Mosher, Vice-chair
John Blasiak
Thomas DeHoyos

ALSO PRESENT: Martha Naley, US Fish & Wildlife Service
Alex Hackman, MA Dept of Fish & Game, Division of Ecological
Restoration
Amy Singler, American Rivers
Paul Sievert, Gill Conservation Commission
Chris Polatin, Gill Conservation Commission
Amy Gordon, Gill Conservation Commission
Susan Worgaftik, Greenfield Public Art Commission
Ryan Hale, TRC Environmental Corporation
Sara Campbell, Greenfield DPW
Matthias Nevins
James Allen
Maureen Pollock, Assistant Planner & Conservation Agent

Approval of Minutes:

Approval of Meeting Minutes from June 17, 2014.

MOTION: Moved by DeHoyos, seconded by Blasiak, no further discussion and voted 3-0-0 to accept the minutes from June 17, 2014, as amended.

Public Meetings/Hearings:

Joint Public Hearing with the Gill Conservation Commission:

7:10 NOI – Factory Hollow Drive (Assessors Map R6 Lot 18): Notice of Intent submitted by U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, for the property located at Factory Hollow Drive (Assessors Map R6 Lot 18), for work pertaining to the removal of the Fall River Dam Spillway.



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Blasiak explained the public hearing process to the applicant. Blasiak read the public notice into the record. Greenfield Conservation Commission Members sitting were Timothy Mosher, Vice-chair; John Blasiak; and Thomas DeHoyos. Gill Conservation Commission Member sitting were Chris Polatin, Chair; Paul Sievert; and Amy Gordon. Also in attendance was Martha Naley, US Fish & Wildlife Service; Alex Hackman, MA Dept of Fish & Game, Division of Ecological Restoration; and Amy Singler, American Rivers, representatives to Applicant; and members of the public.

Hackman, Naley, and Singler led a site visit from 4:00PM-6:00PM, on July 8, 2014 showing Gill and Greenfield Conservation Commission members the proposed access routes, dam spillway, abutments, and jurisdictional wetlands.

Hackman stated the purpose of removing the remains of the breached spillway from the obsolete Fall River Dam, referred as "International Paper II Dam" is for the purposes of removing a fish passage barrier, restoring natural stream topography and flood resilience, and beneficial sediment transport.

Naley submitted photographs of the dam at low water flow

Blasiak stated with the movement of the equipment crossing the riverbank, any disturbance will need to be restored. Asked which criteria will be used to determine the damage and what measures will be used to correct any damage.

Hackman stated access into and out of the site will be on existing paved and dirt roads except for one hard bottom river crossing. There are two possible locations for a stream crossing. The first location is a well vegetated bank on the Gill side and the equipment would cross over the Fall River into the Greenfield side which has a gentler slope. The second location is existing ford

The stream crossing will occur at low flow and follow an existing utility line corridor. The stream crossing for the excavator may result in a temporary disturbance of 30 linear feet of bank and disturbance width up to 15 feet. All disturbed areas will be restored by flattening any ruts and seeding the areas.

DeHoyos asked whether there will be temporary placement of swamp mats over the riverbank for equipment to reach the dam spillway location.

Hackman responded no. The swamp mats would create more disturbances. The proposed project will take about 3 days.

Sievert asked how many times will the equipment need to cross for refueling



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Hackman responded the equipment operator may need to cross once to refuel. The Commissions could make a condition that requires placement of swamp maps if the project exceeds 5 days

Blasiak stated this project will cause the sediment to go into the flowing waters and settle out downstream. As the dam spillway is lowered even more, the sediment load will increase. Asked if there have been any modeling of the deposition downstream of the dam and what the anticipated effects as shown in the model of the deposition are.

Hackman responded modeling has been performed. The model takes a volume of sediment and calculates the worst case scenario as if the entire sediment load behind the dam was instantaneously dumped downstream to the next dam in the next falls, which is a flatter area and would be expected to be the location of where the sediment would likely settle.

Blasiak asked if the model factored in particle size

Hackman responded no.

Singler stated she performed a particle analysis, which determined the grain to be coarse.

Hackman stated 1.5% of the sediment material consists of fine sand and smaller.

Singler stated the sediments will not be dumped downstream all at once. The sediments will dump over time caused by precipitation events.

Blasiak stated he is concerned about the amount of sediment impounded by the dam. Asked what the depth of sediment impounded is

Hackman stated 7 feet of sediment is impounded behind the dam. Stated as the spillway is removed, the sediment will spill out like a tongue onto the bedrock.

Gordon stated during the site visit she observed there was a lot of bank erosion downstream. Asked whether this project will increase or decrease the erosion.

Hackman responded the river will likely begin to flow closer to the east bank. Stated he expects the water will flow toward the bedrock and into the channel. Allowing sediment to go downstream will ultimately help alleviate erosion along the banks.

Naley stated the dam spillway is already crumbling, either you allow the spillway to be completely removed with BMPs in place or you let nature do it over time.

Blasiak stated he expects to see less fine sand eroding with the release of the cobblestones.



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Naley submitted photographs of successful dam removal projects in Massachusetts.

Sievert asked how quickly the disturbed areas will re-vegetate.

Hackman responded all disturbed areas should re-vegetate within 1-2 growing seasons. All equipment will be cleaned prior to entering the work site to ensure no introduction of invasive species.

Sievert asked whether the abutments provide embankment protection.

Hackman responded the abutments do not help. They are not good for terrestrial movement and habitat.

Hackman stated he may remove the trees on the abutments.

Blasiak stated the trees on the abutments are located within the 25 foot No Disturb Zone, so the trees should not be removed.

Pollock asked if the abutment starts to crumble during the removal of the dam spillway, will the operator take down the abutment and if so, will he take down a section of the abutment or the entire abutment

Hackman responded MA Historical Commission wants the abutments preserved, but if the abutment starts to pose a safety hazard, e.g. start to crumble during the dam spillway removal, then the proponents may remove the entire abutment.

DeHoyos asked whether the proponents intend to restore the access roads if disturbed.

Naley responded all disturbed sections of the access road will be flattened and seeded.

Polatin asked how the proponents will ensure work will not be performed in high flow water.

Hackman responded the Commissions could condition that work shall not occur in high flow water. Stated he will look at the weather forecast prior to work starting to ensure there are no heavy precipitation events during the three day construction period.

Gorden asked if the proponents will provide any post construction monitoring.

Hackman responded he will provide photo monitoring for two years after the spillway is removed.

Singler responded fishing monitoring will likely be performed.



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Sievert asked if the proponents will contact the Commissions before any works starts

Hackman responded yes

Mosher asked what the typical cubic feet per second (cfs) in the Fall River is.

Hackman responded approximately 100 cfs.

Hackman stated there is not an stream flow gauge located along the Fall River, so he and the project team need to observe the nearby gauges for stream flow rates

Mosher stated the 330 series excavator will disturb the river banks.

Mosher asked what is the river bottom composition and embeddedness.

Hackman responded the river bottom is mostly composed of gravel, cobbles, and boulders. Stated he does not believe there is a significant amount of silt and sand embedding rock. Stated some turbidity may occur.

Hackman stated either stream crossing locations (e.g. ford or other location by field) will work for the project needs.

Mosher stated he will like a turbidity curtain installed downstream of the stream crossing.

Mosher stated there is a wooden culvert located at the base of the dam spillway. Asked whether the wood culvert will be removed.

Hackman responded yes.

Mosher asked if the wood is treated.

Hackman responded he is not sure, and would have to do a little research to figure out it is treated.

Mosher stated he wants all manufactured wood and reinforced metal to be removed off-site.

Mosher stated he would like the excavator hose to use biogradable hydraulic fluid.

Naley responded the risk on site with its close proximity to upland is very minimal, and does not believe biodegradable hydraulic oil is necessary.



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Polatin stated the intention of this project is to remove a fish passage barrier, restore natural stream topography and flood resilience, and provide beneficial sediment transport. The Commission wants to ensure the interests of the wetland resource areas are protected. Stated the proponents have presented a thorough plan and narrative which are in the interests of the wetland resource areas. Stated he does not want to mandate so many special conditions, that it makes it onerous to the proponents.

Vice-Chair Mosher and Chair Polatin opened up the hearing for public comment.

No Comments

Gill Conservation Commission

MOTION: Moved by Sievert, seconded by Gordon, no further discussion and voted 3-0-0 to close the public hearing and issue an Order of Conditions under the Wetlands Protection Act with the following special conditions:

1. **Manufactured timber and reinforced metal shall be removed off-site;**
2. **All ruts consequent to movement of equipment shall be flattened and seeded in kind with a New England wetland seed mix;**
3. **All equipment shall be cleaned before entering the work zone as a way to prevent the spread of invasive species;**
4. **Work shall only occur during non storm events at/near seasonal base flow;**
5. **Post construction monitoring shall include photographs of the dam spill removal site for two years after the dam spillway is removed;**
6. **If the ford is used as the stream crossing, a turbidity curtain shall not be required downstream of stream crossing and a swamp mat placement shall not be required over each side of the riverbank to the Fall River. If another area is designated as the stream crossing, a turbidity curtain shall be required downstream of stream crossing and swamp mat placement shall be required over each side of the riverbank to the Fall River;**
7. **Biodegradable hydraulic oil shall be used for the excavator;**

Greenfield Conservation Commission

MOTION: Moved by Blasiak, seconded by DeHoyos, no further discussion and voted 3-0-0 to close the public hearing and issue an Order of Conditions for DEP # 168-0299 under the Wetlands Protection Act and Greenfield Wetlands Protection Ordinance, with the following special conditions:

1. **Manufactured timber and reinforced metal shall be removed off-site;**



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2. **All ruts consequent to movement of equipment shall be flattened and seeded in kind with a New England wetland seed mix;**
3. **All equipment shall be cleaned before entering the work zone as a way to prevent the spread of invasive species;**
4. **Work shall only occur during non storm events at/near seasonal base flow;**
5. **Post construction monitoring shall include photographs of the dam spill removal site for two years after the dam spillway is removed;**
6. **If the ford is used as the stream crossing, a turbidity curtain shall not be required downstream of stream crossing and a swamp mat placement shall not be required over each side of the riverbank to the Fall River. If another area is designated as the stream crossing, a turbidity curtain shall be required downstream of stream crossing and swamp mat placement shall be required over each side of the riverbank to the Fall River;**
7. **Biodegradable hydraulic oil shall be used for the excavator;**

Other Business:

- **Brookie Sculpture Park, 270 Deerfield Street (Assessor's Map 19, Lot 44):** Susan Worgaftik, Greenfield Public Art Commission was present to informally discuss her proposed plans to remove invasive species along the east bank to the Green River. Removing the invasive species would be an improvement to the wetland resources present, and it would also open visibility of the river from the Brookie Sculpture Park.

Pollock stated removal of invasive species should be considered a resource improvement allowed under 310 CMR 10.53(4). There is Priority Habitat of Rare Species found here, regulated under the Massachusetts Endangered Species Act (MESA), <http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/dfg/dfw/natural-heritage/regulatory-review/mass-endangered-species-act-mesa/> Potentially a MESA filing may be required and the Notice of Intent would need to go to NHESP if any work is within Estimated Habitat of Rare Wildlife

Blasiak stated if the proponents disturb the bank while removing the invasive species, then the proponent will need to restore the area. Stated the proponent should submit a completed Notice of Intent, with a planting plan, monitoring plan, and a written narrative describing the scope of work.

- **National Grid A127/B128 Transmission Refurbishment/Reconductor Project - Structure 161A Replacement DEP #168-0278:** Representative to the applicant, Ryan Hale, TRC Environmental Corporation was present to informally discuss the revised scope of work regarding the replacement of Structure 161A west of Adams Road.

The work will be performed as part of the A127/B128 Transmission Refurbishment/Reconductor



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Project, which received an Order of Conditions from the Commission on April 28, 2010 (MassDEP File #: 168-0278). The applicant requests that the Commission review this information to determine if an amendment to the OOC may be required.

The original scope of work called for reinforcement of the four existing foundations of Structure 161A, which is located within Wetland GR-11. Upon further inspection, it was determined Structure 161A would need to be completely replaced. Therefore a replacement structure is proposed approximately 20 feet to the west of the existing Structure 161A, which would also be located within Wetland GR-11. Existing Structure 161A would be removed and its foundations would be removed down to 18 inches below the ground surface. A new Structure 161A will be installed, comprised of two concrete foundations and steel poles.

New holes will be excavated for the concrete foundations, concrete foundations will be constructed and backfilled, and installation of new poles, crossarms, and permanent hardware will occur. Temporary hardware will be installed for the wire replacement/pulling operation. Following the wire pulling operation and clipping to the new structure permanent hardware, the former Structure 161A will be removed and the area will be restored and stabilized.

Wetland topsoils recovered from excavation associated with construction of replacement Structure 161A would be used to backfill above the old Structure subsurface foundations, and exposed soils would be graded to match adjacent contours, seeded with a wetland seed mix, and stabilized with straw.

The four foundations to be removed along with existing Structure 161A are approximately 24 square feet (sq. ft.) in area, and the two foundations to be constructed as part of new Structure 161A are approximately 24 sq. ft. in area. Therefore, the replacement of Structure 161A will result in no net increase or decrease of fill.

To accommodate the construction activities, approximately 9,837 square feet of temporary swamp matting will be installed within Wetland GR-11 to establish access and provide a temporary construction work area around the existing and new Structure 161A in Wetland GR-11. This constitutes temporary alteration, and all areas subject to swamp mat installation will be restored to preconstruction conditions. There are no Massachusetts Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program (NHESP) Priority or Estimated Habitats of Rare Species at or within the vicinity of the Project.

Pollock stated she requested the applicant to summarize compliance with the Special Conditions in the OOC regarding removal and replacement of Structure 143, which involved replication of 72 sq. ft. of Bordering Vegetated Wetlands.

The Commission stated they would like to review the summarization.



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The Commissioners stated that given the potential for adverse impacts to the resource areas will not be increased, the applicant may request an Amended Order of Conditions, instead of filing for a new Notice of Intent.

- **Request for a Certificate of Compliance: 184 Shelburne Road (Assessor's Map 45, Lot 22) DEP #168-0222**

MOTION: Moved by DeHoyos, seconded by Mosher and voted 3-0 to deny the issuance of the Certificate of Compliance until Special Condition #6 is fulfilled, which states: "Upon completion of the project, the applicant submits a statement from the project engineer that all work has been completed in conformance with the approved plans and this Order of Conditions" and Special Condition #7 is fulfilled, which states "The Conservation Commission shall have the right to enter onto the property at any time to inspect the premises for compliance with this Order of Conditions, the Wetlands Protection Act and the Town of Greenfield Wetlands Protection Ordinance."

Once a statement from the project engineer has been submitted, the applicant shall contact the Conservation Commission to schedule a site visit.

- **Surplus Property Disposition (Assessor's Map R27, Lot 25A):** Pollock stated the Mayor is seeking comments regarding a letter dated April 20, 2014 from Paul D. Viens stating his desire to purchase a majority portion of the town owned property, Parcel R27-25A. Viens proposes to purchase the entire lot except a 50 foot strip on the southern boundary of the property, which abuts Murphy Park. Viens would like to combine this parcel with an adjoining parcel that he owns (Parcel R28-1H) in order to build a new home at this location.

Pollock stated according to the property deed, this Article 97 land shall be "managed and controlled by the Greenfield Conservation Commission for conservation and passive recreation purposes...." If the Town seeks to dispose of this Article 97 land, the Town must obtain a unanimous vote of the Conservation Commission that the Article 97 land is surplus to municipal, conservation and open space needs; and obtain a two-thirds Town Council vote in support of the disposition..

Blasiak stated before commenting on the property, he would like to conduct a site visit of the property to make an ecological and hydrological assessment.

Project Monitoring:

- **The Berkshire Gas Company c/o Ishwar Murarka, Ish Inc., Phase II of the Remediation of Sediment/Soils in the Green River, Meade Street (DEP # 168-0290):** Pollock updated the Commission regarding the recent soil erosion area along the north bank to the Green River. On June 16, 2014, New England Environmental (NEE) filled in with new soil the soil erosion



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area in the north bank and placed additional seeds for establishing the ground vegetation in the area. They also put some straw-bales on top of the bank to break up the energy from water flow that may have caused the soil erosion. NEE also removed the orange construction fences from the site during the work day.

The Sycamore tree will be delivered and planted in a couple of weeks. Ishwar Murarka will notify the Commission when the Sycamore tree has been planted.

Jack Yablonsky, Berkshire Gas and Murarka noted during a recent site visit through the restored site that the ground cover in the north and south side banks is sparser than is desired. Murarka is now working with NEE to figure out how to establish a more robust ground cover which will eliminate future potential erosion issues. .

- **Greenfield DPW: Colrain Street Roundabout (DEP #168-0292):** Pollock updated the Commission regarding the Colrain Street Roundabout project. The Commission was not notified prior to work commencement; therefore, sedimentation and erosion barriers (staked silt socks) were not initially inspected. A severe precipitation storm event occurring on June 25, 2014 damaged all staked silt socks. Pollock conducted a site visit of the project site on July 1, 2014. The damaged silt socks were re-staked. Pollock observed erosion channels forming on the moderate sloped bank located at the College Drive and Colrain Street intersection. Pollock took photographs for record. Pollock stated she does not believe silt socks are an appropriate barrier for moderate slopes, and would prefer a barrier that can handle more sediment loads in place.

Pollock will draft a letter to the applicant stating in order to ensure compliance with the approved OOC, the applicant must address the special conditions.

Enforcement Updates/Possible Violations:

- **592 Leyden Road:** Pollock was notified of tree clearing and storage of wood chips within and/or near a wetland. The Commission will conduct a site visit to determine whether this would be considered a violation.
- **Washburn and East Cleveland:** Pollock was notified a pile of compost has been placed near a wetland. Pollock conducted a site visit on June 27, 2014 and determined that the pile is located outside of the 25 foot No Disturb Zone and within the property's maintained lawn; therefore, this would not be considered a violation.
- **DPW: Nash's Mill Road (Assessor's Map R27, Lot 22):** Pollock was notified on July 3, 2014 that mowing occurred within the 25 foot No Disturb Zone by DPW.

Under the Greenfield Wetlands Protection Ordinance, §195-2(a):



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“For activities within jurisdiction, a minimum of a 25-foot "No Disturb Zone," shall be maintained or provided between resource areas and all altered areas. The Commission shall create a wider "No Disturb Zone" within the 100-foot buffer zone when deemed necessary to protect the resource area because of the environmental quality or the hydrology of the resource area.”

Pollock conducted a site visit with Sara Campbell and Marlo Warner (DPW), and took photographs for record. Pollock observed the soil is exposed and an erosion gully has been formed. Campbell is present to discuss what happened and what DPW plans to do to restore the area.

Campbell stated the DPW mower got carried away and decided to mow right up to the stream. Campbell stated DPW could put three signs along the 25 foot No Disturb Zone that state, “No Mowing Beyond This Point.” DPW plans to stabilize the area by filling all exposed areas of the bank with new soil and seed it with a New England wetland mix.

MOTION: Moved by Blasiak, second by Mosher and voted 3-0 that three signs along the 25 foot No Disturb Zone shall be installed stating, “No Mowing Beyond This Point” and that DPW shall stabilize the area by filling all exposed areas of the bank with new soil and seed it with a New England wetland mix.

- **DPW: Blocked 3-sided box culvert along Smead Brook, Robbins Road:** Pollock was notified on July 3, 2014 that DPW was working to unblock a 3-sided box culvert with plastic piping on Robbins Road. Pollock conducted a site visit with Marlo Warner (DPW) on July 3, 2014. Pollock observed the repair work was altering the upstream bank to Smead Brook by exposing soil to the bank and damaging some vegetation. Pollock took photographs for record.

Blasiak stated the emergency work was conducted within the jurisdiction of the Wetlands Protection Act and the Greenfield Wetlands Protection Ordinance; therefore, an Emergency Certificate should have been filed prior to beginning work. DPW should have contacted Pollock or any of the Commission members to explain what activities will be conducted under the Emergency Certificate.

Pollock stated per DEP Guidance for Permitting Emergency work, guideline #4 states: “...In a situation requiring immediate action, an Emergency Certification may be signed by a single member or agent of the Commission, if said Certification is ratified by a majority of the members at the next scheduled meeting of the Commission.” Nothing in the regulations allows verbal approval of work in jurisdiction.

Blasiak stated DPW will need to stabilize and seed the bank.



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Action Items:

Annual Reorganization

MOTION: Moved by DeHoyos, seconded by Mosher and voted 3-0-0 to make the following appointments:

Chair – John Blasiak
Vice-Chair – Timothy Mosher

Correspondence:

Site Visit Scheduling:

Next Meeting:

7:00 PM on Tuesday, July 22, 2014, at the Greenfield Department of Planning and Development;
114 Main Street

Adjournment:

MOTION: Moved by Blasiak, seconded by DeHoyos, no further discussion and voted 3-0-0 to adjourn the meeting at 10:16 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Maureen Pollock
Assistant Planner & Conservation Agent

John Blasiak
Chair