



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)
Miller, Gail (2017)
Mosher, Timothy (2015)
Nevins, Matthias (2017)

GREENFIELD CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Minutes of Tuesday September 9, 2014

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

The meeting was called to order by Chair, John Blasiak at 7:00 p.m. with the following members:

PRESENT: John Blasiak, Chair
Timothy Mosher, Vice-chair
Thomas DeHoyos
Gail Miller
Matthias Nevins

ALSO PRESENT: Paul Knapik, BSC Group
Marleigh Sullivan, BSC Group
Brian Benito, Northeast Utilities
Tim Meyers, MassDOT
Chris Horan, Synergy Environmental, Inc.
Mitchell L. Moss, Remediation Equipment & Services, LLC
Mary Lou Benson
Maureen Pollock, Assistant Planner & Conservation Agent

Approval of Minutes:

Approval of Meeting Minutes from August 12, 2014.

MOTION: Moved by Mosher, seconded by Miller, no further discussion and voted 3-0-1 (DeHoyos abstained) to accept the minutes from August 12, 2014, as amended.

Approval of Meeting Minutes from August 26, 2014.

MOTION: Moved by DeHoyos, seconded by Miller, no further discussion and voted 3-0-1 (Mosher abstained) to accept the minutes from August 26, 2014.

Public Meetings/Hearings:

7:10 Cont. NOI – 230 Mountain Road (Assessor’s Map R01, Lot 7): Notice of Intent submitted by WMECo dba Northeast Utilities Service Company, for the property located at 230 Mountain Road (Assessor’s Map R01, Lot 7), for the construction of a permanent access road.



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Paul Knapik, Marleigh Sullivan, and Brian Benito were present to explain the proposed work, which is for the realignment of the off-ROW portion of the access road that requires crossing an emergent wetland regulated as bordering vegetated wetland (BVW). The project is necessary to continue to provide permanent access to electric utility lines and structures for routine maintenance. The project has been designed to avoid or minimize direct impacts to resource areas to the maximum extent practicable and is designed with the minimum length and width necessary. As proposed, the project will require the construction of a coarse stone access road through BVW. The stone access road will minimize impacts to the wetland by allowing water to flow through the wetland and allow for ongoing access for maintenance of the transmission lines. To mitigate impacts, a wetland replication area of equal or greater size has been designed adjacent to the fill area. However, the preferred mitigation for the wetland fill is the restoration of an off-site stream channel/BVW adjacent to the Deerfield River in Greenfield. The Phase I restoration project includes removing an estimated 3,000 to 4,000 tires at the surface from an intermittent stream and BVW and restoring the channel. Phase II would include the removal of the embedded tires. New England Power Company dba National Grid's Cabot Taps Separation Project is anticipating including the Phase II when they file a Notice of Intent with the Commission next year.

Pollock read a letter of support from Andrea Donlon, Connecticut River Watershed Council for the inclusion of the tire removal be part of the project's approved Order of Conditions.

Blasiak stated the Commission cannot factor in Phase II as part of this project, because the Commission does not know what the Cabot Taps Separation Project entails. The Cabot Taps Separation Project is a separate project which has not been filed.

The Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program of the MA Division of Fisheries & Wildlife has determined that the proposed project will not adversely affect the actual Resource Area Habitat of state-protected rare wildlife species and will not result in a prohibited "take" of state-listed rare species. Therefore, it is the Division's opinion that this project meets the state-listed species performance standard for the issuance of an Order of Conditions.

Approaching the towers from the north would not be feasible. WMECo does not have easements rights to the north of the tower. Additionally, the ROW turns east and crosses the Connecticut River just several hundred feet north from the project area.

Benito stated Northeast Utilities needs to provide vehicular access. Northeast Utilities send vehicles to the tower multiple times per year, including for emergencies and for routine maintenance. The access could not be limited to pedestrian access.

Equipment to be used for the construction of the permanent access road include: a standard excavator, dump truck, and bull dozer.



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MOTION: Moved by DeHoyos, seconded by Miller, no further discussion and voted 5-0-0 to close the public hearing and to issue an Approved Order of Condition for the construction of a permanent access road and a wetland replication area at a 1:1 ratio with conditions.

7:25 RDA - Mass DOT: Request for Determination of Applicability submitted by MassDOT Highway Division, for property located along a section of Route 2/2A, to determine whether the proposed installation of a sub-drain is subject to the Wetlands Protection Act and the Greenfield Wetlands Ordinance. Tim Meyers, MassDOT was present to discuss the proposed plans. The proposed work includes the installation of a subdrain under the eastern shoulder of Route 2A and the southern grass shoulder of Route 2, directly adjacent to the edge of pavement. The proposed work will occur entirely within the State Highway Layout, and immediate grass/paved shoulder. The subdrain will be installed along the old road bed to Rt 2. No new discharge points will be created as the subdrain will be connected to the existing drainage structure on Route 2A and to the proposed catch basin on Route 2 (authorized under the Negative Determination of Applicability issued April 4, 2013). Since this is a subdrain system designed to collect groundwater only, no new drainage from the highway is proposed to enter the system.

MOTION: Moved by DeHoyos, seconded by Nevins, no further discussion and voted 5-0-0 to close the public meeting.

MOTION: Moved by DeHoyos, seconded by Nevins, no further discussion and voted 5-0-0 to make a negative determination, box 2, the work described in the Request is within an area subject to protection under the Act, but will not remove, fill, dredge, or alter that area. Therefore, said work does not require the filing of a Notice of Intent.

MOTION: Moved by DeHoyos, seconded by Nevins, no further discussion and voted 5-0-0 to make a negative determination, box 3, the work described in the Request is within the Buffer Zone, as defined in the regulation, 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 Boiler Plate Conditions.

MOTION: Moved by DeHoyos, seconded by Nevins, no further discussion and voted 5-0-0 to make a negative determination, box 6, the area and work described in the Request is not subject to review and approval by the Greenfield Conservation Commission pursuant to the Wetlands Protection Ordinance, Chapter 195.

7:40 Continued NOI - ExxonMobil, 142 Mohawk Trail (Assessor's Map 35, Lot 15): Notice of Intent submitted by Synergy Environmental, Inc. c/o David Hrinak presenting Lehigh Gas Corporation, for the ExxonMobil Station property located at 142 Mohawk Trail (Assessors Map 35 Lot 15), for work pertaining to the installation of a longer gabion basket retaining wall than previously proposed.



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Christopher Horan and Mitch Moss, representatives for the applicant were present to explain the proposed project. Over the last 10-20 years, the intermittent stream located at the rear of the site location has been eroding and scouring the bank adjacent to the site's existing parking lot and concrete gasoline island pad. The erosion caused by the intermittent stream has undermined an existing stockade fence and if unaddressed, it appears as if it will eventually undercut the site's developed areas. In order to address the erosion issue, the applicant is proposing to repair erosion by installing a 130 foot long gabion basket retaining wall along Bank. The applicant is proposing to repair these identified scour areas in an effort to restore the intermittent stream to its assumed original flow path and to prevent future erosion. In 2013, Commission approved the Order of Conditions for the applicant to install a 75 foot long gabion basket retaining wall, but the applicant has since realized the Bank will require a longer wall. Therefore, the applicant is presently filing the Notice of Intent.

Soil disturbing activities will include: limited clearing and grubbing; grading; re-curb and re-pavement of the existing parking lot; and installation and replacement of the on-site fencing.

Installation of temporary catch basin erosion control protection, temporary sandbag diversions, and silt fencing along the limit of work will be placed before any work starts. Trash and debris will be removed from the stream, including downed trees and fencing obstructing flow. A 4-6" rip-rap splash pad will be placed at the existing outfall. A turbidity curtain is proposed downstream of the project area. Disturbed areas will be restored with loam and New England Wetlands seed mix. An inspection will be conducted 6 months after the installation of the wall to evaluate effectiveness of restoration efforts. Soil stockpiles and excavated materials will be covered with plastic to prevent sediments from going into the stream.

The work should take approximately 3 weeks to complete. A bucket maybe lowered below bank to get to areas, but no machinery will go into the stream.

Mary Lou Benson, 99 Newton Street:

Inquired which side of the stream will the gabion wall be installed. Horan responded the wall will be installed on the side of ExxonMobil. Benson expressed her concern about a tree that is leaning towards her house. She believes the tree maybe located on the ExxonMobil property. Pollock will conduct a site visit at Benson's property in order to locate the tree.

Horan stated the project meets all performance standards for Bank. The project will improve the stability of Bank; the project will not impair the water carrying capacity of the existing channel within the Bank; ground water and surface water quality will not be impaired; the capacity of the Bank to provide breeding habitat, escape cover and food for fisheries will not be impaired; and the capacity of the Bank to provide important wildlife habitat functions will not be impaired.

Pollock stated the project requires a Category 2 Authorization from the US Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE). Therefore, the Commission should hold off closing the public hearing until the ACOE have issued the Category 2 Authorization.



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MOTION: Moved by DeHoyos, seconded by Nevins, no further discussion and voted 5-0-0 to continue the public hearing to September 23, 2014.

- **7:40 NOI - 25 Keegan Lane (Assessor's Map R26, Lot 21):** Notice of Intent submitted by College Park Condo Trust c/o Theodore Johnson, for the property located at 25 Keegan Lane (Assessor's Map R26, Lot 21) for work pertaining to the bank stabilization to an intermittent stream.

Ted Johnson, applicant has requested that the public hearing be continued until October 14, 2014

MOTION: Moved by DeHoyos, seconded by Nevins, no further discussion and voted 5-0-0 to continue the public hearing to October 14, 2014.

Other Business:

- **562 Leyden Road (OOC DEP #168-0298):** It was anticipated that work would start in August 2014. Pollock conducted a site visit to discover no work has commenced. Pollock has contacted the representative to this project and is awaiting a response.
- **GTD/Griswold Conservation Area:** Due to time constraints, Pollock advised the Commission to take money out of the Conservation Trust which only needs Commission approval and not approval from the Mayor or Town Council. Starting next Fiscal Year, the Commission can request the Mayor and Town Council for Griswold/GTD Area Account funds be appropriated for biannual trail maintenance.

MOTION: Moved by DeHoyos, seconded by Miller, no further discussion and voted 4-1-0 (Blasiak opposed) to authorize money from the Conservation Trust for mowing and tree clearing along the trails at the GTD/Griswold Conservation Area for Fall 2014 and to authorize expenditures to be taken from the GTD/Griswold Conservation Area Account for biannual mowing and tree clearing along the trails.

- **Conservation Commission Orientation:** The Orientation will be held at 6:30PM on September 23, 2014 in the Planning Department, located at 114 Main Street.
- **Westwood Wildlife Sanctuary:** The Commission would like to conduct a site visit of the property once the leaves have fallen so members can locate the boundary markers. Nevins suggested the Commission should consider having a Forest Management Plan be conducted.

Project Monitoring:



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- **DPW: Sewer/Drain ROW between Elm and Devens Street (Emergency Permit Greenfield # 14-12):** The drain replacement is complete. The access road off Elm Street has been smoothed, seeded with conservation mix, and spread with straw.

Enforcement Updates/Possible Violations:

- **592 Leyden Road:** Pollock mailed the property owner a letter via certified mail requesting that he attend the September 9, 2014 meeting so that he could discuss the possible violation located at his property. The letter was deemed not deliverable by the post office, and no new mailing address was provided. Pollock will check with the Town Clerk and Assessor's office about obtaining a more recent mailing address.

Correspondence:

Site Visit Scheduling:

1. **French King Highway and King St – Meet Monday, September 15, 2014 at 2:45PM on-site;**
2. **Keegan Lane – Meet Tuesday, September 16, 2014 at 4:30PM on-site;**
3. **105 Newton Street – Meet Monday, September 22, 2014 at 4:30PM on-site.**

Next Meeting:

7:00 PM on Tuesday, September 23, 2014, at the Greenfield Department of Planning and Development; 114 Main Street

Adjournment:

MOTION: Moved by DeHoyos, seconded by Miller, no further discussion and voted 5-0-0 to adjourn the meeting at 9:17 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Maureen Pollock
Assistant Planner & Conservation Agent

John Blasiak
Chair