



William F. Martin
Mayor

City known as the Town of
GREENFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS
CONSERVATION COMMISSION

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Timothy Mosher, Chair
Rachel Lindsay, Vice
Chair
Erika LaForme
John Griffin
Douglas Cloutier

Agent: Sarah Brodeur

GREENFIELD CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Meeting Minutes of Tuesday, April 24th, 2018
Greenfield Department of Planning and Development
114 Main Street, Greenfield MA 01301

The meeting was called to order by Chair Timothy Mosher at 7:04 PM with the following members:

MEMBERS PRESENT: Timothy Mosher, Chair
Rachel Lindsay, Vice Chair
Erika LaForme
Doug Cloutier

MEMBERS ABSENT: John Griffin

ALSO PRESENT: Andrea DeBernadis, Burns & McDonnell
Chris Reino, Burns & McDonnell
Mark Kasinskas, Burns & McDonnell

7:04 PM Administrative Matters: Approval of Minutes – April 10, 2018

Motion made by Rachel Lindsay to approve the minutes from April 10, 2018 as amended

Motion seconded by Doug Cloutier

No further discussion – 3-0-1 – Motion Carries (Timothy Mosher abstained)

7: 06 PM Review Mail & Phone Messages: I-91 Culvert Rehabilitation

The GCC received a letter from MassDOT – Highway Division on March 27, 2018 pertaining to the water quality certification for a project to replace the slip-lining in a culvert through which a perennial stream flows through approximately 1.25 miles northwest of the MA-2/I-91 Interchange in Greenfield. The GCC received a second letter dated December 14, 2017 pertaining to a request to substitute the approved sliplining material from a 66-inch diameter steel reinforced polyethylene pipe to a 66-inch aluminized steel culvert. The Agent contacted project manager Chris Ross of MassDOT on April 19, 2018 to gain more information about the project and to schedule a site visit. Chris Ross informed the Agent that the project will commence in August of 2018 when the perennial stream exhibits low flow conditions, and suggested that it would be appropriate to schedule a site visit approximately a week after construction has begun. The Agent will inform the GCC of the date and time of the site visit so that they may attend.

7:10 PM Other Projects, Monitoring, Enforcements & Violations

1. DEP # 168-0318 – 36 Log Plain Road solar array:

The GCC conducted a site visit on April 24, 2018 and observed that a portion of the perimeter fence had been installed and that the entire site had been hydro-seeded for site stabilization. The area of greatest concern on the project site was the Isolated Vegetated Wetland (IVW) in which the perimeter fence is within the 100-foot Buffer Zone, but there were no observable breakouts of the erosion sediment controls and therefore no impacts to the wetland as a result of construction up until this point.



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Contractors from Burns & McDonnell were present to update the GCC on the solar array project at 36 Log Plain Road. Mark Kasinskas of Burns & McDonnell explained to the GCC that the project was originally proposed by CG Energy Development, LLC and was sold to EverSource Energy, Inc. subsequent to approval in October-November of 2017. Mr. Kasinskas explained that there were a few minor changes to the project as proposed, including the installation of a perimeter fence around the solar array with a 6-inch 'critter gap' to facilitate the movement of small wildlife through the area, and an adjustment to the solar panels on the southern side of the site due to shading by the forest surrounding the array without a reduction in overall wattage. Mr. Kasinskas also stated that the contractors intend to finish the project by June of 2018. Rachel Lindsay inquired about post-construction vegetation management, specifically pertaining to the use of chemical versus mechanical control throughout the site but most importantly in the area adjacent to the Isolated Vegetated Wetland. Mr. Kasinskas proceeded to discuss post-construction maintenance of the site, stating that Burns & McDonnell is in the process of drafting an Operation and Maintenance Plan, but that the maintenance requirements are of relatively low intensity; mowing will occur one (1) to three (3) times a year depending upon the vegetation growth within the perimeter fence, and that mowing outside the perimeter fence will only occur when the growth of woody vegetation has reached the extent in which the solar panels become shaded. Timothy Mosher asked if 'Do Not Mow' signs could be installed in the area adjacent to the Isolated Vegetated Wetland to prevent impacts to the resource area.

2. DPW – upcoming Emergency Permit, Adams Road/guard rail replacement:

The Agent received a request from Town Engineer Nicolas Reitzel to conduct a site visit to a segment of Adams Road in which the guard rails are in need of replacement as a result of the disintegration of the road edge. Two wooded deciduous swamps are present on either side of the road and are joined by the presence of a hydrologic connection that flows through a culvert under Adams Road. The Agent conducted a site visit on April 10, 2018 and observed that the original rock structure of the road is falling apart on the downstream side of the culvert, but that the upstream side of the culvert appeared to be stable. The Agent reviewed the Wetlands Protection Act regulations regarding exemptions, for which many road maintenance activities are now exempted, but determined that due to the nature of the work and the proximity of the culvert to the guardrails that an Emergency Permit would be the best permit for this situation. The Town Engineer will contact the Agent during May 2018 once town capital improvement funds have been relinquished to the DPW.

3. DPW Bundled Notice of Intent (NOI) – road maintenance:

The Agent was directed by the GCC to pursue the development of a bundled Notice of Intent for regular road maintenance by the DPW, especially given upcoming Emergency Permit that will be issued by the GCC to the DPW for the repair of guard rails on Adams Road. The Agent explained to the GCC that because the Adams Road project is not exempt from the Wetlands Protection Act that the work involved to repair the guardrails would not be covered under the bundled Notice of Intent, and that regardless the GCC will still have to issue permits for certain road maintenance activities.

4. Possible Violations:

- a. **2 Main Street:** The Agent performed a site visit on April 24, 2018 with Mark Stinson of MassDEP and Town Engineer Nic Reitzel to assess possible violations of the Wetlands Protection Act, Rivers Protection Act, and Massachusetts Endangered Species Act at 2 Main Street in Greenfield. The Agent observed a constructed fire pit, piles of gravel/other fill material, a boat launch, and vegetation cutting along the bank of the Green River. Timothy Mosher instructed the Agent to let MassDEP handle all future enforcement regarding this property.
- b. **258 Shelburne Road:** The Agent received correspondence from MassDEP on April 17, 2018 regarding possible violations at 258 Shelburne Road, specifically pertaining to excessive vegetation clearing along Wheeler Brook, a perennial stream flowing through the southern end of the property. The Agent was informed that the property owners were attempting to remove invasive vegetation from the property, but the extent at which the site has been cleared indicates that more than invasive vegetation has been cut



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down. The GCC reviewed aerial photographs of the site from 2015 and 2017 which clearly depict that a large portion of the site has been cleared and converted into lawn. The Agent reviewed the GCC files and determined that previous wetlands violations had been observed at the property in 2015, but was not able to determine if the GCC took enforcement action at that time. The GCC instructed the Agent to determine if the state of the property is the result of recent activities or if they are the result of past cutting on site.

- c. **49 Overland Road:** The Agent received a phone call on April 17, 2018 pertaining to the cutting of trees adjacent to Maynard Pond located off of Overland Road/Blanker Lane. A site visit was conducted on April 17, 2018 in which the Agent observed a landscaping company on site and several large, freshly cut stumps adjacent to the pond. The GCC instructed the Agent to issue a cease and desist to the property owner and invite them to the next meeting on May 8, 2018 to discuss the violation.
 - d. **22 Conway Drive:** The GCC instructed the Agent to issue a cease and desist to the property owners at 22 Conway Drive and to invite them to the next meeting on May 8, 2018 to discuss the road construction along the bank of the Green River.
5. **Update – 8 River Road erosion issue:** There is no update regarding this agenda item.
6. **Greenfield High School Environmental Club – interpretive guide and trail blazing:** The Agent received a request from the Greenfield High School Environmental Club to assist with the continuation of a project to build a nature trail at the Green River Recreation Area. The GCC informed the Agent that folks from Conservation Works, LLC. had worked with the students in the past to construct the nature trail, and instructed her to determine if there was funding available to hire them again to work with the Environmental Club.

8:20 PM Discuss proposed change in meeting time

The Commission discussed rescheduling meetings for the foreseeable future to 6 PM opposed to 7 PM so that the Commissioners can get home earlier on meeting nights.

Motion made by Doug Cloutier to change the meeting time from 7 PM to 6 PM

Motion seconded by Erika LaForme

No further discussion – 4-0-0 – Motion Carries

Set Next Meeting Date: Tuesday, May 8th, 2018 at 6:00 PM in the Greenfield Department of Planning and Development, located at 114 Main Street.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:25 PM

Motion made by Rachel Lindsay to adjourn at 8:25 PM

Motion seconded by Erika LaForme

No further discussion – 4-0-0 – Motion Carries

Respectfully Submitted,
Sarah Brodeur
Conservation Agent

Timothy Mosher,
Chair