



Virginia Desorgher  
Mayor

City of  
**GREENFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS**  
**CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

City Hall • 14 Court Square • Greenfield, MA 01301  
Phone 413-772-1548 ext 3 • Fax 413-772-1309  
[mitchell.vye@greenfield-ma.gov](mailto:mitchell.vye@greenfield-ma.gov) • [www.greenfield-ma.gov](http://www.greenfield-ma.gov)

Travis Drury, Chair. Dec, 2026  
Fletcher Harrington, Vice-Chair. Dec,  
2024

Erika LaForme. Dec, 2025  
Christin McDonough. Dec, 2025

Agent: Mitchell Vye

**GREENFIELD CONSERVATION COMMISSION**  
**Meeting Minutes of Tuesday, January 9, 2024**  
**Greenfield Department of Planning and Development**  
**Online via Zoom**  
**Greenfield MA 01301**

The meeting was called to order by Travis Drury at 6:32 p.m. with the following members:

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Travis Drury (Chair)  
Fletcher Harrington (Vice Chair)  
Christin McDonough  
Erika LaForme  
Emily Boss (Alternate)

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Christin McDonough

**ALSO PRESENT:** Mitchell Vye (Agent)  
Wisty Rorabacher  
Nancy Hazard  
Elizabeth Erickson  
Jeri Case  
Claire Hilsinger  
Elizabeth Garofalo

*Should any technical interruption to the meeting occur and the meeting is suddenly ended, it will not be resumed and all items will be automatically continued to the next scheduled meeting date. Contact the Conservation Agent for more information*

**Administrative Matters**

**Approval of Meeting Minutes from 12/26/2023**

**Motion by Erika to approve the meeting minutes from 12/26/2023**  
**Seconded by Travis**  
**No further discussion**

**Erika AYE**  
**Fletcher AYE**  
**Travis AYE**  
**Motion passes 3-0-0**



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Elizabeth stated that she would accept the role of alternate member.

**Motion by Fletcher to nominate Elizabeth as an alternate member of the Conservation Commission**  
**Seconded by Erika**  
**No further discussion**

**Fletcher AYE**  
**Erika AYE**  
**Travis AYE**  
**Motion passes 3-0-0**

**Schedule of Public Meetings & Hearings**

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- **Public Hearing: Notice of Intent: Bank stabilization at the Green River Swimming Area (Map R27, Lot 18) DEP # 168-0356 Continued from 12/26/2023**

Alan Twarog of the Department of Public Works made another request to continue the hearing to the next meeting. The Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program has not provided a determination yet.

**Motion by Travis to continue the hearing for the bank stabilization project at the Green River Swimming Area (DEP #168-0356) to January 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2024**  
**Seconded by Erika**  
**No further discussion**

**Fletcher AYE**  
**Erika AYE**  
**Travis AYE**  
**Motion passes 3-0-0**

- **Public Hearing: Notice of Intent: Culvert replacement on Shelburne Road DEP # 168-358 Continued from 12/26/2023**

A continuance was requested by the applicants while they work on responses to the Department of Environmental Protection and Commission's comments.

**Motion by Travis to continue the hearing on the culvert replacement on Shelburne Road (DEP # 168-358) to January 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2024**  
**Seconded by Christin**  
**No further discussion**

**Fletcher AYE**



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**Erika AYE**

**Travis AYE**

**Motion passes 3-0-0**

➤ **Public Meeting: Request for Determination of Applicability: Invasive species removal at 108 Deerfield Street (Map 24, Lot 39) Continued from 12/26/2023**

A determination from the Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program is required before the Commission can issue a wetlands permit. The applicant, Dorothea Sotiros, requested a continuance while she goes through the Massachusetts Endangered Species Act review process.

**Motion by Fletcher to continue the meeting for the invasive species removal project at 108 Deerfield Street to January 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2024**

**Seconded by Travis**

**No further discussion**

**Fletcher AYE**

**Erika AYE**

**Travis AYE**

**Motion passes 3-0-0**

**Other Business & Enforcement Updates**

➤ **Greenfield Swimming Area invasive species removal project**

Wisty shared updates on the invasive species removal project at the Greenfield Swimming Area, stating that portions of the Japanese Knotweed have been removed and stockpiled outside of the Riverfront Area. She requested the Commission's permission to use prisoners for portions of the project. Travis stated that it was outside of the Commission's jurisdiction how volunteers are organized. She had also requested permission to burn plant stockpiles. Fletcher did not have an issue with burning the stockpiles if it is done properly with consent from the Fire Department. Fletcher mentioned that the opened up areas could invite park goers into those areas that were previously too dense. This area will not be mowed.

Christin joined the meeting at around 7:00 PM.

Travis stated that using vinegar for invasive plant removal is not included in the current permit as only manual removal methods were proposed. This would likely require additional permitting with the Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program as well.

➤ **Proposed Conservation Land on Shelburne Road (R37-57)**



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Randall Gauley is interested in leaving a roughly 10-acre forested parcel to the Conservation Commission in his will to be managed as Conservation Land. This would eventually need to be approved by City Council before it can be given to the Commission. Randall will discuss the property at a future meeting.

➤ Conservation Land boundary signage

The Commission decided on a total of 300 signs. Quotes will be obtained for the order. Travis suggested edits to the sign’s design, stating that the words “Conservation Area” should be larger.

➤ MassDEP proposed wetland regulations revisions

The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection is proposing changes to the wetland regulations. The Massachusetts Association of Conservation Commissions is hosting a Lunch & Learn about the proposed amendments. Comments can be submitted to the MassDEP website.

➤ Oak Hill Road (Map R20, Lot 14) – unauthorized tree cutting in Riverfront Area.

Trees were removed for a housing development. A portion of this was within Riverfront Area. It was requested that the violator shall present a restoration plan to the Commission to restore the area and that the Riverfront Area boundaries shall be marked.

**Project Monitoring, Correspondence, & Site Visit Scheduling**

No updates.

**Meeting Adjourned at 8:09 PM**

**Motion by Christin to adjourn the meeting**

**Motion seconded by Erika**

**No further discussion**

**Erika AYE**

**Christin AYE**

**Travis AYE**

**3-0-0 – Motion Carries**

**Respectfully Submitted,**

**Mitchell Vye,**

**Conservation Agent**

**Travis Drury,**

**Chair**