



Roxann Wedegartner
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 • www.greenfield-ma.gov

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

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

Agent: Mitchell Vye

GREENFIELD CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Meeting Minutes of Tuesday, May 9, 2023
Greenfield Department of Planning and Development
Online via Zoom
Greenfield MA 01301

The meeting was called to order by Fletcher Harrington at 6:30 p.m. with the following members:

MEMBERS PRESENT: Fletcher Harrington (Vice Chair)
Christin McDonough
Erika LaForme

MEMBERS ABSENT: Travis Drury (Chair)

ALSO PRESENT: Mitchell Vye (Agent)
Diana Walden
Kylie Abouzeid
Aaron Keegan
Paul Beed
Nancy Hazard
Ryan Whitney
Stephanie Duclos

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 4/11/2023

Motion by Erika to approve the minutes from April 11, 2023

Motion seconded by Christin

No further discussion

Christian AYE

Erika AYE

Fletcher ABSTAIN

Motion passes 2-0-1



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Schedule of Public Meetings & Hearings

➤ **Public Hearing: Notice of Intent: Roadway improvements to Route 2 (Mohawk Trail) at the intersections of Colrain Road and several commercial plaza entrances DEP # 168-0355**

Diana Walden introduced the MassDOT project, which is for roadway improvements along Route 2 by the Big Y. This area has a relatively high accident rate. This project aims to make it safer for drivers and cyclists. Grass medians will be reduced in size and some will be eliminated. Wheeler Brook runs north of Route 2 between the road and the Big Y plaza. There are several small Bordering Vegetated Wetlands which have buffers within the project area. The project is within Riverfront Area, although there are no direct impacts to wetlands or waterways. It was mentioned that MassDOT is exempt from local bylaws, like the Greenfield Wetlands Protection Ordinance.

Mark Stinson of the Department of Environmental Protection made the comment that the delineations of two previous Order of Conditions in the same area are still valid and must be used. After reviewing these projects, Diana stated that these delineations were not significantly different from the ones that were done for this project. Mark also suggested areas of mitigation, such as managing the Japanese knotweed along Wheeler Brook. This is a roughly 680 square foot area. There is also a swale that could be improved near the entrance to the Home Depot. The applicant's preferred option for mitigation is constructing a stormwater infiltration swale. Offsite areas could be used for mitigation as well. Christin would like to see an argument for a mitigation plan that does meet the required performance standards. A site visit was scheduled for May 16th at 5 PM. A continuance was requested to analyze other possible areas of offsite mitigation within the watershed. There were no comments from the public.

Motion by Fletcher to continue the hearing on the roadway improvements to Route 2 to the meeting on May 23rd

Seconded by Erika

No further discussion

Christin AYE

Erika AYE

Fletcher AYE

Motion passes 3-0-0

Other Business & Enforcement Updates

➤ Emergency Certification for bank stabilization at the Riverside Drive bike path

Alan Twarog of the Department of Public Works requested an Emergency Certification to stabilize the bank of the Green River near the Riverside Drive bike path as the path and the sewer line underneath could be compromised after a major rain event. He proposed using coir logs, root wads, rip rap, and planting native species to help prevent future erosion. Christin suggested using dogwood or willow stakes, which are good for



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erosion cohesion.

Motion by Fletcher to issue the Emergency Certification for the bank stabilization near the Riverside bike path

Seconded by Christin

No further discussion

Erika AYE

Christin AYE

Fletcher AYE

Motion passes 3-0-0

- Proposed edits to the roadway improvements project at Wisdom Way/River Street/Mill Street Intersection (DEP #: 168-0338)

The project to reconstruct the Wisdom Way/River Street/Mill Street Intersection is expected to be completed by the summer of this year. A proposed change in plantings within the Green River Riverfront Area was submitted. The contractor has been unable to procure ‘Gro-Low’ Sumac (*Rhus Aromatica*) in the planned 1-gallon size at the quantity called for, which was 87 plantings. Local nurseries do not have this varietal in stock. The Massachusetts Department of Transportation is requesting a substitution of either bearberry (*Arctostaphylos uva-ursi*) or Sweet Fern (*Comptonia Peregrina*) to be planted at the same location and quantity. The Commission agreed that the sweet fern is preferable due to the sizes of the plants.

Motion by Christin to approve the proposed changes to the project with the selection of sweet fern

Seconded Erika

No further discussion

Erika AYE

Christin AYE

Fletcher AYE

Motion passes 3-0-0

- Invasive plant removal at Highland Park and Poet’s Seat

Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program’s verbal approval was obtained. The Commission recommended obtaining a written letter as well. A Request for Determination of Applicability is being finalized for areas within the Commission’s jurisdiction.

- Possible improvements to Millers Meadow



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Nancy Hazard presented project ideas for Millers Meadow, such as plantings for pollinators. The property is managed by the Conservation Commission. Nancy’s plans would not affect the portions of the parcel that are used for parking for certain events. Federal Emergency Management Agency guidelines limit what can be done at Millers Meadow. Most new structures and improvements are not allowed on the property.

Project Monitoring, Correspondence & Site Visit Scheduling

➤ 21 Spring Terrace (Map 65-9) – unauthorized construction within Riverfront Area.

Three bushes were planted at the end of the driveway as requested by the Conservation Commission. They are dwarf arborvitae. The Commission agreed that this satisfies their requests.

➤ 286 Plain Road (Map R34-10) – unauthorized construction within Riverfront Area.

The owner plans on planting three blueberry bushes within the Riverfront Area. A few suggestions of blueberries native to the county will be sent to the homeowner.

Meeting Adjourned at 9:08 PM

Motion by Christin to adjourn the meeting

Motion seconded by Erika

No further discussion

3-0-0 – Motion Carries

Respectfully Submitted,

Mitchell Vye,

Conservation Agent

Travis Drury,

Chair