



# Grafton Conservation Commission

## MINUTES of the GRAFTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION

March 15, 2016

7:00 p.m.

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A meeting of the Grafton Conservation Commission was held in Conference Room F of the Grafton Municipal Center on March 15, 2016. Present were: Co-Chairperson Sandra Brock, Co-Chairperson John Wilson, Heather Trudell, Kathleen Theoharides, Conservation Agent Maria Mast, and Conservation Assistant Leah Cameron. Peter Finn was absent.

Co-Chairperson Sandra Brock opened the public meeting at 7:03 p.m.

**Discussion Item: 15 George Hill Road – Future Request for Determination of Applicability** – The Commission discussed a future Request for Determination of Applicability for a 14' x 24' shed at 15 George Hill Road with Kevin Otenti. Co-Chairperson Sandra Brock stated that no deliberation shall be made outside of the public hearing process; the application shall only be reviewed for completeness. In the proposed location, half of the shed will be located within the 25' no-disturb zone within existing lawn area. This was shown on an as-built plan from the Board of Health. Co-Chairperson Sandra Brock recommended that the Conservation Agent verify that the 25' no-disturb boundary is accurate and consider alternative locations. The Commission was in agreement.

**Request for Determination of Applicability – 12 Pleasant Street (Assessor's Map 82, Lot 30)** – The applicants, Christopher and Melissa Alex, proposed the construction of a 24' above ground swimming pool within a riverfront area and requested that the Commission determine whether the area and/or proposed work are subject to the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act and/or the Grafton Wetlands Protection Bylaw. The pool is proposed in a previously altered area and therefore does not add to the riverfront disturbance calculations. The Commission determined that erosion control was not necessary given the temporary nature of the construction and the flatness of the property. Heather Trudell made a motion, seconded by Kathleen Theoharides, to issue a negative determination for 12 Pleasant Street with the following special conditions: backwashing shall be directed away from the resource area and any excess fill shall be removed from the site. The motion carried unanimously.

**DEP File #164-855 / WP #690 – 88 Westborough Road – Request for Certificate of Compliance** – The Commission reviewed a Request for a Certificate of Compliance for 88 Westborough Road. The filing was for mitigation of an oil release through three planting areas. Brian Milisci from Whitman & Bingham Associates discussed the project with the Commission. The Conservation Agent noted truck travel and exposed soil in planting area A as well as an additional area outside the scope of the filing. Sediment and stormwater was also washing from the parking lot into the wetland. Brian Milisci asked if the Commission would support another Notice of Intent being filed for 88 Westborough Road for additional work while still having this filing open. The Commission was receptive to this. Heather Trudell made a motion, seconded by Kathleen Theoharides, to take no action on the Request for Certificate of Compliance for 88 Westborough Road because of the need for stabilization and placement of an obstacle to prevent truck travel in the planting area. The motion carried unanimously.

**Request for Determination of Applicability – Electric Transmission ROW (Assessor's Map 35, Lot 1)** – The applicant, New England Power Company, proposed geotechnical exploration work within resource areas and requested that the Commission determine whether the area and/or proposed work are subject to the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act and/or the Grafton Wetlands Protection Bylaw. Matt Kelly from VHB

presented the project to the Commission. The work will consist of six temporary geotechnical borings and six temporary hand-dug test pits for an upcoming separation project. Straw wattles are proposed for erosion control. The holes will all be refilled and straw mulch will be utilized to restore the area. The Commission mentioned that the applicant should check with DEP about the safety of digging in the area because of the waste that was historically dumped on site. Heather Trudell made a motion, seconded by Kathleen Theoharides, to issue a negative determination for the Electric Transmission ROW with the following special conditions: erosion control shall be installed as shown on the plan and shall be removed upon establishment of 75% ground cover. The motion carried unanimously.

**DEP File #164-851, 164-852, 164-853 / WP #686, 687, 688 – 43, 45, 47 Brookmeadow Lane – Requests for Two Year Extensions** – The Commission reviewed requests for two year extensions for 43, 45, and 47 Brookmeadow Lane. Normand Gamache from Guerriere & Halnon discussed the projects with the Commission. The requests were submitted on March 9, 2016. The Orders of Conditions expired on March 12, 2016. Co-Chairperson John Wilson made a motion, seconded by Heather Trudell, to issue two year extensions for 43, 45, and 47 Brookmeadow Lane. The motion carried unanimously.

**DEP File #164-909 Notice of Intent / WP #742 Application for Grafton Wetlands Protection Bylaw Permit – 31 Browns Road (Assessor's Map 85, Lot 2A) (Continuation)** – The applicant proposed the construction of a new house with a septic system, well, driveway, and utilities within the 100' buffer to resource areas. Heather Trudell made a motion, seconded by Kathleen Theoharides, to continue the public hearing for 31 Browns Road to April 19, 2016 at the applicant's request. The motion carried unanimously.

**DEP File #164-616 / WP #463 – Brookmeadow Village – Request for partial Certificate of Compliance** – The Commission reviewed a Request for a partial Certificate of Compliance for phase one of Brookmeadow Village subdivision. As-built plans were submitted. The Conservation Agent needs to review the as-built plans and visit the site. She mentioned that one of the trails on Klondike Road was cut into during the road construction, leaving a steep drop which needs to be addressed. Heather Trudell made a motion, seconded by Kathleen Theoharides, to take no action and await the Agent's review of the as-built plans and site walk. The motion carried unanimously.

**DEP File #164- Notice of Intent / WP # Application for Grafton Wetlands Protection Bylaw Permit / SW # Application for Stormwater Management Bylaw Permit – 103 Worcester Street (Assessor's Map 46, Lot 19)** – The applicant proposed the construction of a commercial building and parking lot within a riverfront area. Heather Trudell made a motion, seconded by Kathleen Theoharides, to continue the public hearing for 103 Worcester Street to April 5, 2016 at the applicant's request. The motion carried unanimously.

**Discussion Item: Silver Lake Beach – CPC Application for Facilities Modifications** – The Commission discussed a CPC application for Silver Lake Beach facilities modifications with Jen Anderson from the Grafton Recreation Department. Silver Lake Beach is within a riverfront area and a historic mill complex. The proposed modifications are: additional sand placed in the back of the beach area, a seasonal shade structure on two posts, and expansion of the concession stand, including the installation of a second shower with a trench drain. The modifications are proposed within previously altered areas. The Recreation Department is also considering installing grills and a temporary mat for handicap access. The Commission will provide a letter of support for the Grafton Recreation Department.

**March 1, 2016 Meeting Minutes** – Heather Trudell made a motion, seconded by Co-Chairperson John Wilson, to accept the March 1, 2016 meeting minutes as drafted. Co-Chairperson Sandra Brock was in agreement. Kathleen Theoharides was absent from that meeting and thus abstained.

Co-Chairperson Sandra Brock made a motion, seconded by Kathleen Theoharides, to adjourn the meeting at 8:36 p.m. The motion carried unanimously.

**Documents discussed located in the Conservation Commission office:**

As Built Plan for 15 George Hill Road  
Requests for Determination of Applicability & Determinations of Applicability for: 12 Pleasant Street & New England Power Company ROW  
Request for Certificate of Compliance for 88 Westborough Road  
Requests for two year Extensions & Extension Permits for: 43, 45, & 47 Brookmeadow Lane  
Notice of Intent & Application for Grafton Wetlands Protection Bylaw Permit for 31 Browns Road  
Request for partial Certificate of Compliance & As Built Plans for Brookmeadow Village  
Notice of Intent, Application for Grafton Wetlands Protection Bylaw Permit, & Application for Stormwater Management Bylaw Permit for 103 Worcester Street  
Letter of support for Grafton Recreation Department CPC Application  
March 1, 2016 meeting minutes  
Agent's Report to the Commissioners dated March 15, 2016

Minutes drafted by Leah Cameron

Approved on April 5, 2016