

Greenfield Conservation Commission

Meeting Minutes

December 29, 2021

Recorded by Michelle Hall

Members Attending: Karen Day, Kate Dean, Candi Fowler, Carol Irvin, Roger Lessard

3:00 pm Chairman Roger called meeting to order.

Accept or Amend Previous Meeting Minutes

Candi motioned to accept previous meeting minutes, seconded by Carol. All were in favor.

Potential Wetlands Issues

The GCC discussed two recent potential wetlands violations, which would have been discussed at the regular December 15th meeting, except the meeting was canceled due to the lack of a quorum.

The first incident, reported on December 1st, involved property owners who were cutting trees, and operating a backhoe within the 25' buffer zone of wetlands on their property. An advisory letter was sent to the property owners. They immediately contacted GCC chairman Lessard, who explained that the stumps had to remain in place so that the ground adjacent to the wetland could continue to act as a filter. The property owners voluntarily ceased operations and no further action was taken.

The second potential wetlands violation was observed from a public way on December 12th. It appeared that two parallel lengths of PVC pipe had been installed somewhat perpendicular to what is believed to be a vernal pool. Further investigation revealed that the pipes caused water to flow from the pool into a substantial trench, which had been excavated, connecting to a second pool situated a bit further from the public road, and eventually draining the inflow. An advisory letter was sent to the property owners. Due to the apparent egregious nature of this situation, a complaint was filed with NHDES.

Candi Fowler motioned to accept the advisory letters sent for both December complaints. Seconded by Carol Irvin. All were in favor.

Meadow Park Pollinator Project

Roger was able to re-secure the black plastic and mark the sites of the fox lilies and butterfly weeds before snow fall. The GCC may be able to reuse the first sheet of black plastic, but will likely have to replace the second one due to rips and tears.

The wildflower seed mix that had been ordered from High Mowing Organic Seeds has arrived, except for the licorice mint which is on back order, and scheduled to arrive in February.

New Business – Project Ideas

In light of two virtually back-to-back wetlands issues, it would seem that there is a need for land owner education in Greenfield. A series of wetland-related articles in The Greenfield Spirit would be one way to

reach the greatest number of Greenfield property owners. Beginning with explaining the importance of wetlands to a healthy environment, subsequent articles could focus on a number of subjects such as how to:

- identify, distinguish, and protect various types of wetlands
- apply for a wetlands permit
- determine what sort of application is required; standard, minimum impact, expedited, etc.
- comply with the NH's Comprehensive Shoreland Protection Act
- be aware of restrictions within ¼ mile of a designated protected river (Contoocook River/Powder Mill Pond)

Another idea is to update the current wetlands maps, possibly utilizing GPS to increase accuracy, and involving help from willing land owners.

The GCC should begin to keep track of real estate transactions, in order to ensure that new residents and/or property owners are made aware of wetlands regulations and Greenfield wetland buffer ordinances.

4:58 pm Kate motioned to adjourn, seconded by Karen. All were in favor.

The next meeting of the GCC will be January 19th, 2022 at 7 pm, upstairs at the town office.