

Granby Conservation Commission (GCC) - Meeting Minutes

Town of Granby, Massachusetts

January 9, 2024

Next Meeting – February 13th, 2024

Members (*absent)

William Shaheen (WS) – *Chair*, Ed Chapdelaine* (EC) – *Vice Chair*, Amanda Smith* (AS) – *Assoc. Mmbr*, Kevin Shewmaker (KS), Robert Fernandes (RF), Dave Desilets (DD) – *Scribe for these minutes*.

The following notes document the writer's understanding of the contents of this meeting. They are considered correct, unless copied members contact the writer and make corrections.

- WS hosted this meeting which began at 7:00 pm and adjourned at 8:05 pm. This meeting was held at the *Old Carnegie Library on Library Lane* and was accessed online via 'Go to Meeting'.

7:00 pm – Open Session / Building Permit & Board of Health Applications

1. Lot #5 – Batchelor St. – Peter Heronemus, property owner requested the GCC approve his building permit for the construction of a 3-bedroom residence, and new septic system design. The artesian well has already been installed.
 - a. This building lot is located along the shore of Aldrich Lake which is at the toe of the hill of this sloping site. Based on previous site visits at neighboring properties the GCC understands only minimal wetlands occur at the lakeshore of this lot, therefore the Bordering Vegetated Wetland (BVW) is effectively the lakeshore edge. All proposed structures appear to be outside the 100' BVW buffer except for new fill placed on the downhill side of the septic leach field location. This fill encroaches within the 100' BVW buffer by approximately 25' to 30'.
 - b. Drawings presented at this meeting did not show any Erosion Control protection of the slope. The property owner stated that a silt fence has been installed on the property though it isn't shown on this drawing.
 - c. Comments from the GCC focused on the need to show how Erosion Control will be handled to protect the lake and that it is installed prior to any construction start. The property owner stated he hopes to begin construction this coming March.
 - d. WS requested a drawing be prepared and submitted to the GCC showing the location and type of Erosion Control system to be installed or that has been installed at this site. The GCC will be able to approve the Building Permit application at its next meeting.
 - e. The property owner also requested guidance on the removal of two large trees located on the property. One is a large White Pine located close to the proposed residence. The second tree is located at the shore of the lake and has toppled over into the lake. He proposes to remove both trees prior to construction start.
 - i. Permission was granted to remove both trees and to leave the stump and root ball in the ground so as not to adversely affect the soil surface in these two areas.

7:30 pm – Public Hearing and Appointments

1. There were no applications to review at this meeting.

7:31 pm – Public Hearing and Appointments Closed**Old Business.**

1. USDA / American Farmland Trust – Farmland of Local Importance for the Town of Granby has been completed and prepared for approval signatures. DD made a motion to accept this document with the approval signature of WS, chair of the GCC. KS seconded the motion, without further discussion, the motion was unanimously approved. WS signed the document which will now be returned to USDA / American Farmland Trust for counter signing.
 - a. After signing the document, a question was raised as to why the Town of Amherst is mentioned in the first paragraph. DD will notify Al Averill for clarification.
2. 61 Pleasant St. – Halon Property, DEP Non-Compliance issue, WS stated he has reached out to Mike McHugh at DEP and is awaiting a response. This continues to be a work in progress.
3. Stocking Fish @ Forge Pond – DD will make a report at the next meeting.
4. 150 Batchelor St. – Continued to the next meeting.
5. 128 Taylor St. – WS stated he is coordinating a Site Visit to this property for mid-January. More to follow at the next meeting.
6. Gravel Pit Site Inspections – DD stated Site Visits will be scheduled in the next couple of weeks for each of the three gravel pits for the 2023 calendar year. The following site visits will occur in late April or early May going forward.

Administrative Duties

1. Commentary
 - a. WS noted that BF was invited to the Selectboard meeting last evening. The purpose of the meeting was for introductions and to address any questions the Selectboard had. The meeting resulted in the acceptance of BF as a new commissioner of the GCC. Welcome aboard Bob!
2. Post next meeting – February 13th, 2024 @ 7:00 pm. All public hearings continuing to this meeting will begin at or around 7:30 pm.
3. Approve meeting minutes – Minutes from the December 12th, 2023, meeting were reviewed as noted. WS motioned to approve the December meeting minutes. BF seconded the motion and with no further discussions, the motion was unanimously approved. The approved minutes will be forwarded to Cathy Leonard to place on the website.
4. Bills to Pay – Stockman Associates, LLC submitted invoice # 20-157(6) dated 12/27/2023 for services rendered to include payment of One Thousand Eight Hundred Seventy-Five Dollars and No Cents (\$1,875.00). Services covered in this invoice included a Pre-Construction Meeting, multiple Site Visits related to the Batchelor Street new culvert installation as part of the Eversource 1113 Line project.
 - a. WS motioned to approve this invoice for payment, KS seconded the motion. There was no further discussion, the motion was approved unanimously. The invoice was signed by WS for payment.
5. Financial Accounts Update – *No Financial Accounts to review at this meeting.*
6. Outreach/Education/Plant of the Month – *Nothing to review at this meeting.*
7. News / Announcements – WS noted that Chris Martin has not gotten back to him regarding the Conservation Commission Agent position offer to DD. DD added he has contacted Cathy Leonard, requesting a meeting with Chris Martin, and is awaiting her response. More to follow on this subject.

8. Site Visits – *To be scheduled.*
 - a. 128 Taylor St.
 - b. (3) - Gravel Pit Sites, for Nawrocki, Orlon and Ondrick.
9. Correspondence
 - a. Annual Town Report – The GCC report for the 2023-year activities must be submitted to the Selectboards office by February 21, 2024. A draft of this report will be presented at the next meeting for final comments.
 - b. Tompke Avenue GCC Review – Special Permit for Earth Removal (New Gravel Pit) any GCC comments must be completed by 1/21/24.
 - i. Based on drawings presented within this Special Permit Application to the Planning Board, it appears to be the intention of the applicant to stay outside of the 100' Bordering Vegetated Wetland Buffer zone as it relates to wetlands associated with the neighboring Batchelor Brook.
 - ii. This site appears to be adjacent to the Orlon Gravel Pit.
 - iii. A decision was made to craft a letter to the Planning Board outlining the following concerns.
 1. Applicant will be required to submit a Wetland application to the GCC that will verify perimeters of the Bordering Vegetated Wetlands (BVW) as well as the design for the control of storm water runoff from operations performed at this new gravel pit.
 2. DD will craft this letter for WS to review and approve.
 - c. Porter Street GCC Review – Special Permit Review for a Use Change to an existing property that includes no new construction. Wetlands are not part of this review and WS recommends the GCC has no opinion on this review. A decision was reached that the GCC be silent.