

# Granby Conservation Commission (GCC) - Meeting Minutes

Town of Granby, Massachusetts

February 13, 2024

Next Meeting – March 12<sup>th</sup>, 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 7:54 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. This is the second GCC appearance for this application.
  - a. At the last meeting it was determined that the drawing scale was inaccurate for the drawing. An updated drawing was requested with the correct scale.
  - b. At the last meeting a request was made to show the location of an erosion control silt fence on the drawing, which the applicant stated was already installed on the property.
  - c. The drawing submitted today had the correct scale shown and the location of the erosion control silt fence.
  - d. The property owner agreed the erosion control silt fence can be used as a work limit line and all excavation work and fill will occur on the uphill side of this fence. This should protect the lake from any pollution caused by rainstorm generated soil erosion.
  - e. Based on this plan submission and discussion, WS motioned to approve the Building Permit (BP) application and KS seconded this motion. There was no further discussion, and the motion was unanimously approved. WS signed the BP application.
2. 31 Chicopee St. - Representatives Carilyn Schebel and Duane Camp attended this meeting to discuss flooding of their property caused by debris blocking an older culvert pipe at Chicopee Street.
  - a. Beavers had built dens in the past, around this culvert and a drainage structure had been installed by the Town to alleviate any flooding problems. There doesn't appear to be any beaver activity currently. However, the drainage structure had deteriorated to the point it no longer served any purpose and Duane removed it as it was adding to the blockage at the culvert.
  - b. The existing culvert under Chicopee Street doesn't appear to be working properly as more flooding is occurring on their property and the ground doesn't dry out very often.
  - c. A recommendation was made to bring this situation to the attention of the Granby Highway Department. WS stated he will contact this department head to coordinate a response.

**7:37 pm – Public Hearing and Appointments**

1. Request for Determination Application (RDA) filed by L J Development LLC, Applicant, and Alan E. Trompke, et.al., Owners to see whether area/activities depicted on plan(s) referenced, are subject to the jurisdiction of the Wetlands Protection Act and its regulations with regards to property located at Trompke Avenue and known as Map 14-A-5 in the Town of Granby.
  - a. Applicant Representative, Donald Frydryk of Sherman & Frydryk Survey Associates communicated to WS a decision has been made to withdraw this application prior to it being reviewed by the GCC. Mr. Frydryk stated the applicant will submit an Abbreviated Notice of Resource Area Delineation (ANRAD) application instead. WS motioned to accept this action 'without prejudice' and KS seconded this motion. There was no further discussion, and the motion was unanimously approved.
  - b. WS made a second motion regarding this application to apply the RDA fee (Check #1566) paid to the Town of Granby, to be used towards the new ANRAD application fee. KS seconded this motion, there was no further discussion, and the motion was unanimously approved.

**7:45 pm – Public Hearing and Appointments Closed****Old Business.**

3. 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.
4. Stocking Fish @ Forge Pond – DD will make a report at the next meeting.
5. 150 Batchelor St. – Continued to the next meeting.
6. 128 Taylor St. – WS stated he is coordinating a Site Visit to this property for mid-January. More to follow at the next meeting.
7. 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 – DD stated he has seen several new house construction projects in town that have not been reviewed by the GCC. These include septic system repair projects that need a building permit that have not been seen by the GCC. WS stated he will contact the town building inspector. A couple examples are listed here.
  - a. 15 Griswold Circle, septic system repair and replace project.
  - b. 146 East St., new house construction project.
  - c. ? address Morgan St., new house construction project.
2. Post next meeting – March 12<sup>th</sup>, 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 January 9<sup>th</sup>, 2024, meeting were reviewed as noted. WS motioned to approve the January 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 – WS noted he has heard from Emily Stockman of Stockman Associates, LLC regarding the invoice previously approved in January as not being paid yet. Emily was notified that the invoice in question had been approved and she should receive payment in the next few weeks.

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 – The annual conference for the Massachusetts Association of Conservation Commissions (MACC) will be held this year on Saturday, March 2<sup>nd</sup> at the *College of Holy Cross* in Worcester. We received a group registration form that can be used to register for lectures and sign up to attend this day long conference. Cathy Leonard can send in the registration form for members of the GCC who would like to go, and which lectures you would like to attend. The following link provides you with an outline of the courses offered.
  - a. <https://www.maccweb.org/page/EDVirtualAEC-Conf2024>
  - b. Cathy forwarded an email to each GCC member on Jan 31, 2024, with an outline of this event.
  - c. WS and DD expressed their desire to attend this event.
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 – A draft of the GCC Annual Report 2023 was reviewed and approved at this meeting. A final copy of this report will be sent to Cathy Leonard for inclusion in the Town Report.
  - b. Freedom of Information Request – The following request for information was forwarded to the GCC from the Granby Town Clerk office, Katherine Kelly-Regan. Request is from Cynthia Gaspari, 14 Ken Lane, asking for the following Information.
    - i. *I need the following information for 12 Ken Lane, 37 Crescent St. and 39 Crescent St.*
      - Any Perc Tests
      - Septic System Tests / Permits
      - Building Permits
      - Wetland Surveys
      - Board of Health visits
      - Also, Map of Town Storm Drains with depth of each hole
      - Also, Map of the Lots on Ken Lane
    - ii. The Town Clerk Office responded on 2/5/24 that the Town had ten (10) business days to respond to this request which would be Monday, February 19<sup>th</sup>, but in the reply stated the Town had until Friday, February 16<sup>th</sup> to respond.
    - iii. DD stated he completed a review for *Wetland Surveys* in digital files accessible to him and there no *Wetland Surveys* completed on the subject properties in the last thirty years.
    - iv. A GCC response letter to Ms. Gaspari will be drafted and reviewed by WS for his approval.