



CITY OF MELROSE

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

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Melrose Conservation Commission Amended Minutes for June 15, 2017

Present: Michael Paiewonsky, Richard Doucette, Kate Hickey and Zachary Drench

Absent: Susan Murphy, Kevin Anderson and Aaron Weieneth

Mr. Doucette called the meeting to order at 7:45 PM.

Minutes:

Motion by Mr. Doucette to approve the minutes from May 18, 2017. Mr. Paiewonsky seconded the motion and it was voted 4-0 in favor.

Public Hearing:

69 Cranmore lane – Harold Delaney, Owner, was present to provide some background information on the property. Mr. Delaney explained that he had the in-ground pool filled in, replaced a wood fence with a vinyl fence in the same location as the former wood fence and added a new deck area over a concrete slab that previously existed. He is here for an after the fact filing, no further work expected. An updated plot plan was provided to the Commission for review. Staff visited the property prior to the hearing and provided photos of the completed work. Mr. Doucette- When was the grass seeded? Mr. Delaney- Seeded the yard twice, first time was during last summer, approximately in July. The second time was this spring, growing better this time.

Motion by Mr. Doucette to issue a Negative 3 Determination of Applicability. Mr. Paiewonsky seconded the motion and it was voted 4-0 in favor.

Discussion Items:

Open Space projects- Postponed to next meeting, Chair has been working on update.

Lake Rd- Staff showed plans from the developer to the Commission. Wetland boundaries have been flagged to confirm that the roadway is outside of the buffer zone. No filing will be necessary. Paper street will be treated as a private driveway with public access to use the trail network. Signs are proposed at end of driveway and beginning of driveway to indicate pedestrian access is permitted. Staff will follow up with developer for details on what the signs would say. Questions were raised about how public parking could be controlled on the driveway by the owner if it is a paper street.

229 Laurel Street Request for Certificate of Compliance- Staff spoke with John Maguire for 229 Laurel Street about the restoration area vegetation. He previously submitted a request back in December 2016 pending an inspection of the vegetation growth on the restoration area in the spring of 2017. Staff inspected the site in April, 2017 and instructed the owner to bag and remove the invasive garlic mustard cover from the area and re-seed with more of the native conservation mix. Staff performed a follow-up inspection in June and provided photos of the improved growth and native vegetation cover.

Staff recommended a Certificate of Compliance be granted since all outstanding issues have been resolved.

Motion by Mr. Doucette to issue a Certificate of Compliance. Mr. Drench seconded the motion and it was voted 4-0 in favor.

Nordic Way- Staff sent a letter to all of the houses in the subdivision to notify them that they have an open order of conditions on their property and it should be closed out in the event that they intend to sell their property. It is a blight on the title of their property.

Trail Clean-up- The Commission conducted a trail cleanup on Sunday June 11, 2017 from 9am to 11am. Ms. Hickey attended the clean-up, in future it would be better to check for conflicts with Middlesex-Fells events since they may draw off potential volunteers. Some better maintenance of the trail on the Knox memorial/rocky view trail would be useful. The trail is too narrow in some spots.

Outdoor classroom- Ms. Hickey attended the outdoor classroom clean-up in May, log seats at the classroom had the bark stripped off to help them last longer.

Boat Permits- a question from the police department about boats on Towners pond was discussed. Staff informed the Commission that there is no official published policy either permitting or denying non-motorized boats on either Towners or Swains ponds.*(a deed restriction prohibits boating in Towners pond) Staff shared a copy of the boating permit application that the parks department uses for Ell pond as an example.

Not necessary to institute an official rule or policy unless it becomes a problem. Staff will bring in a printed copy of the current Commission rules to the next meeting for review and any potential tweaks to address.

Next Meeting:

The next scheduled meeting will be Thursday, July 20, 2017 at 7:30 PM.

Adjourn

At 8:30 PM Mr. Drench moved to adjourn, seconded by Ms. Hickey and it was voted 4-0 in favor.

Approved

Date.

Pursuant to the 'Open Meeting Law, ' G.L. 39, 23B, the approval of these minutes by the Commission constitutes a certification of the date, time and place of the meeting, the members present and absent, and the actions taken at the meeting. Any other description of statements made by any person, or the summary of the discussion of any matter, is included for the purpose of context only, and no certification, express or implied, is made by the Commission as to the completeness or accuracy of such statements.