



CITY OF MELROSE

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

City Hall, 562 Main Street
Melrose, Massachusetts 02176
Telephone - (781) 979-4312
Fax - (781) 979-4290

Melrose Conservation Commission Minutes for February 15, 2018

Present: Richard Doucette, Kate Hickey, Michael Paiewonsky, Aaron Weieneth, Susan Murphy and Zachary Drench

Absent:

Ms. Murphy called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM.

Minutes:

Motion by Mr. Weieneth to approve the minutes from December 21, 2017, with amendment. Mr. Doucette seconded the motion and it was voted 5-0 in favor. *(Mr. Drench arrived after the vote was taken)

Discussion:

Brent and Jane Robie, 58 Crescent Lane, Malden would like someone from Melrose Conservation to take a look at the wetlands behind their property. Their home on Crescent Lane abuts 0 Hemenway Ave in Melrose. They expressed some concerns about several nearby projects such as the new home on Lake Rd (a paper street near Swains pond) and some curbing that appears to have been destroyed near the culvert on Hemenway ave. A map of the area was examined to clarify any other areas of concern.

Open Space Projects update - Tabled to next meeting, no updates.

Trail Map Updates, improvements and Stewardship(Master Plan Action list) - Staff has compiled a list of the tasks from the Melrose Master plan that mention the Commission. One short term task specifies that the Commission is to establish a volunteer trail maintenance group. Staff has drafted an advertisement and spoken with some other Commissions with such groups for guidance. A draft volunteer trail stewardship report was shared with the Commission. Ideally, one or two people will commit to a monthly report for each property so the Commission can be aware of any issues that may be occurring and quickly address them as they come up. Staff will start with the trail sign up list that is collected at the Victorian and Healthy Melrose fairs.

Staff was recently at Flagg acres and mentioned that the bridge over the stream on the main path is completely gone. Ms. Murphy thinks the bridge may have been an eagle

scout project that was done quite a while ago.

Trail maps updates- the map will require some updates before more are printed. More maps will need to be printed before the Healthy Melrose fair later this year (May). Ms. Hickey, will investigate a mapping app that would be acceptable for our purposes and to address any inaccuracies in the map.

Melrose Ponds 2017 Annual report –Staff shared the Solitude Lake Management annual report for Ell, Towners and Swains ponds with the Commission. There has been a large phosphorous level spike in Ell pond this summer, despite the current treatment strategy. Staff has surveyed some of the watershed and discovered several storm drains with heavy sediment collection and blockages- DPW and Engineering departments notified. Solitude Lake Management has been in contact with staff and added the option for additional testing to determine what the cause could be. Ms. Murphy has raised concern over the Dissolved Oxygen levels in Towners pond as well, question on long term negative impacts to Swains pond from this. The annual report does show very low Dissolved Oxygen at depth in Swains pond this past summer.

Melrose Ponds 2018 Treatment proposal- The 2018 Melrose ponds treatment proposal was discussed. More sampling for phosphorus should be conducted at both Ell pond and Towners pond. The current proposal does provide an option for additional phosphorus sampling at Ell pond. A separate contract will need to be added for additional testing on Towners pond- Staff will contact the treatment company and request a quote.

Motion by Mr. Doucette to approve the 2018 Ponds treatment contract proposal from Solitude Lake Management with the additional Phosphorus testing at Ell pond subject to the 2019 budget approval. Mr. Weieneth seconded the motion and it was voted 6-0 in favor.

48 Slayton Rd- Staff visited the site and spoke with the owner, photo of the stone material on the side towards the wetlands. Site looks to match the plans from the 1998 approved plan. The garage was never built and the access road was never completed, the OOC has expired. No new work visible, the owner will remove debris from the edges of the property, staff will send a follow up letter as a record of the requests made at the site visit.

The next scheduled meeting will be Thursday, March 15, 2018 at 7:30 PM. –Ms. Murphy and Mr. Drench have indicated that they will be unable to attend that meeting.

Adjourn

At 9:00 PM Mr. Drench moved to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Weieneth and it was voted 6-0 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.