CITY OF MELROSE

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

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Melrose Conservation Commission
Minutes for April 5, 2018

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

Mr. Weieneth filled in as chair and opened the public meeting at 7:30pm

Minutes from the last meeting were tabled to the next meeting since all members had not had a chance to review them.

Public Hearing– 7:45pm:
National Grid 2304 Line project- Theresa Portante of BSC group was present, representing National Grid (MECO). DEP file number has been issued. Ms. Portante described the project again, heavier wires to be installed onto taller (wood) utility poles. Two poles are to be removed from the bordering vegetated wetland and three poles are to be added, two of those poles are to be located within the bordering vegetated wetland (BVW) and one additional pole to be located in bordering land subject to flooding. No net change in number of poles within the BVW.
Stormwater regulations question from last meeting was addressed since the work shall not produce a point source for stormwater runoff. Case example provided (Berkshire Community College OADR Docket No.WET-2015-023) (refer to file for copy).
Equipment to be used by project consists of a bucket truck and auger. Swamp mats are to be used to traverse BVW areas around new pole locations and to remove existing poles.
Public comments (Paul Moore, Matt Wachen, Jason Labarbara)- Noise levels of project? Wood or metal poles? Ms. Portante- This is a moving project, work will not be stationary like past substation project. Poles will be replaced and the work crew will move on to the next location down the line. No specific information on actual expected noise levels, emphasis on the fact that the work is moving along the whole right of way and not in one specific spot. Poles will be wood, the metal poles are not being touched. This project is only on the wood poles which make up the distribution line, the metal poles are the transmission line. No specific start date, expected to be sometime in July 2018.

Motion by Mr. Weieneth to close the public hearing. Ms. Hickey seconded the motion and it was voted 4-0 in favor.

Staff drafted a standard Order of Conditions for the project for Commission review. Ms. Portante requested the order be sent to BSC group address to be recorded. 33 Waldo St, Worcester, MA.

Motion by Mr. Drench to issue the Order of Conditions as written. Mr. Weieneth seconded the motion and it was voted 4-0 in favor.

Discussion

Emergency Certificate- Penny Rd. Agent explained background to the commission; City DPW and Engineering were re-lining a failing sewer pipe near the stream and the pipe failed unexpectedly during the process. The pipe was taking on groundwater and causing the pump station to run continuously. Erosion controls were installed along the edge of work and a trenchless "pipe bursting" process was used to replace the failed pipe with a new one and minimize the total area of disturbance. Staff drafted and issued an emergency certificate and has provided a copy of it tonight for commission review and ratification. Staff visited the site after emergency work was completed and saw that erosion controls had been removed prematurely from one disturbed area near a sewer manhole, Photo shared (refer to file). Staff contacted DPW engineering and they are expected to replace the missing straw wattle.

Solitude Lake Manage Towners pond phosphorus add on- Staff shared a copy of the proposed cost for additional phosphate testing at Towners pond from Solitude lake management- $1100. Tabled to next meeting for comment from commission chair and further discussion. Question whether funds would be better spent on tree removal work for trail blockages from past storms was also raised by commission. Costs would likely be the same or higher.

Trail maps updates and Stewards group- Several of the Trail Stewards that have signed onto the program with staff were present (J.Ryan Sloan, David Summersby, Crystal Bluette, Michelle Gately, Paul Moore). The Stewards introduced themselves to the commission and briefly discussed their backgrounds. Both Mr. Sloan and Mr. Moore expressed interest in joining the Commission. The program has been instituted because we generally hold a cleanup event once or twice a year and that hasn't been enough to address the issues on all the properties. Short term goal of updating the trail map (initially put together about 9 years ago by Ms. Hickey and others) was specified. Ms. Hickey, will write up some instructions for using a mapping app(OSMtracker for android) that would be acceptable for our purposes of gps data collection to stewards.

Early assessment of the trail networks by the stewards and commission will be conducted by the end of April. Goal is to map all the existing trails and take note of the location of where the debris is for later targeted cleanups. Once all existing trails are mapped, consensus can be reached on where the official trails are. Trail blazing materials briefly discussed, paint brush and stencil is probably most practical. Aluminum trail marker discs in office, need to be nailed onto trees with gap space for tree growth. Most conservation lands have been acquired by the Commission via tax takings, some by donation.

Staff drafted some core responsibilities for stewards 1. Visit your specified area at least once a month. 2. Remove any small amounts of trash that may be on the trail. 3. Report any excessive trash, downed trees or limbs blocking trails, motorized vehicle use,

drainage issues on the trails, overgrown areas or damage to signage.
A fourth responsibility was discussed and added to the list , 4. Identify for labor intensive maintenance.

Ms. Bluette had several good ideas for organizing projects like contacting the high school for students to help with trail maintenance projects, corporate sponsors for project funding efforts and coordination with DPW for tools.

Ms. Hickey will convert the word reporting form into a google form for easier data collection.

A date was set for our Spring trail Cleanup, Sunday May 20th, rain date of June 3.

Important dates for Coordination and our own events:
Healthy Melrose fair – May 12 10:30-1:30, maps not likely to be ready in time.
Hoover School Outdoor Classroom cleanup- April 29
EPIC clean up day – Saturday May 5 9-12 noon
Park Serve Day (Fells Cleanup) – Saturday April 28
Saugus River Watershed Marshview park cleanup – April 21
Make Melrose Clean Again- April 28 and 29

The next scheduled meeting will be Thursday, May 17, 2018 at 7:30 PM.

Motion by Ms. Hickey to adjourn. Mr. Drench seconded the motion and it was voted 4-0 in favor.

Adjourn
9:00 PM adjourn

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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.