



CITY OF MELROSE

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

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Melrose Conservation Commission Minutes for June 21, 2018

Present: Michael Paiewonsky, Kate Hickey, Aaron Weieneth and Ryan Sloan

Absent: Richard Doucette, Susan Murphy and Zachary Drench

Members from Public present: Paul Moore

Ms. Hickey opened the public hearing at 7:30pm

Minutes-

Motion by Ms. Hickey to approve the minutes from May 17, 2018, Mr. Paiewonsky seconded the motion and it was voted 4-0 in favor.

Invoices-

Solitude Lake Management Invoice for Task 1 from 2018 pond treatment contract \$300- Staff shared a copy of the invoice for the completed first task for the previously approved 2018 pond maintenance contract. Phosphorus samples were collected from all 3 ponds, permit completed and initial pond conditions survey completed.

Motion by Mr. Paiewonsky to approve the \$300 invoice, Mr. Sloan seconded the motion and it was voted 4-0 in favor.

Office supplies Invoice for \$76.98- Staff shared a copy of the invoice for the recently purchased office supplies (various mailing labels/supplies) ordered from W.B. Mason.

Motion by Mr. Weieneth to approve the \$76.98 invoice, Mr. Paiewonsky seconded the motion and it was voted 4-0 in favor.

Public Hearing- 7:45pm:

Request for Determination of Applicability - 8 Cedarwood Lane by Scott Happeny (Homeowner) Mr. Happeny was present and described the proposed project to the Commission, a new 12' x 20' wood shed. Mr. Happeny- The existing property has a small grass lawn/yard area to the rear of the house, the remainder of the property is wooded and wetlands. The new shed is proposed to be installed in the wooded area outside the existing lawn area. Staff asked me to check/confirm the original measurements depicted on the plan. I originally used a laser range finder, went back and

confirmed measurements with a measuring wheel.

Staff shared photos of the proposed area from site visit and aerial map/parcel map with the commission for reference.

Ms. Hickey- Any clearing/grading or digging necessary for the proposed project?

Mr. Happeny- No, the proposed location was chosen because it is pretty flat and level already, no trees need to be cut down, possibly just a few branches trimmed off if the overhang the proposed shed. The building department may require some type of footings so there may be some minimal digging for those if required. It is a pre-fab shed that is to be assembled on site, Reed's Ferry or similar type. Staff has raised question whether the chosen location is on the applicant's property or the adjacent Mt. Hood property, location looks close to the parcel lines on the aerial map. Building department will need to confirm when applicant goes forward for building permit.

Motion by Ms. Hickey to close the public hearing and issue a Negative 2 Determination of Applicability. Mr. Paiewonsky seconded the motion and it was voted 4-0 in favor.

Discussion

***approximately 8PM, Mr. Weieneth had to leave the meeting to attend another meeting.**

Trail Stewards/Map update- Ms. Hickey provided copies of the Trail Stewards google sheets comments/responses. Suggested Staff add a column to the sheet that indicates what response/action is being done. Staff will follow up and update the sheet.

One item that remains to be addressed at Flagg acres is a very large tree that has fallen and is blocking the trails near Mt. Hood/Flagg acres. Staff will contact the Parks Department and DPW to see if we can get this cleared off the trail.

Hillside park trail has been flagged by new member and trail steward Ryan Sloan. Welcome to the Commission and thank you for your efforts as a trail steward! Mr. Sloan walked the trail with Ms. Murphy and Mr. Doucette last week to assess the existing conditions. Some small trees approximately less than 6" diameter will need to be cut to provide clear access to the new trailhead on Dexter Rd. Some poison ivy is also noted at the new trailhead that will require treatment. Staff suggested that the new trailhead may be a good candidate for one of our brown "City of Melrose Conservation Commission Land signs". These have been installed elsewhere and could help maintain consistent signage.

Staff has a box of the aluminum trail marker discs in the office, same ones that are currently installed at flagg acres. Ms. Hickey suggested that the Trail stewards could install them as we are working on better marking the trails. Staff will provide a set of instructions and see if a subgroup of the stewards are willing to install the discs. Staff will contact DPW to obtain nails for the markers- 2" or 3" galvanized nails specified, markers should be installed with about an inch of nail protruding, don't nail flush to tree. This allows for room for disc to move as the tree grows and prevents the disc from being grown into the tree or popped off.

Potential trail marker sign guidelines:

1. Use a small ladder to install the discs just above reach but still easily visible by trail users (for vandalism resistance).
2. Use 2" or 3" nails, leaving about 1" of the nail protruding so the marker disc has room to move as the tree grows.
3. Place flagging on trail in marker locations before installing signs, check to see if marker location has good visibility before installing nail on marker.
4. Install markers on both sides of tree for visibility in both direction of travel on the trail.

Staff will send out a message to the stewards inviting them to the next meeting (July 19) if they are interested in installing the markers. Staff will add it to the agenda for that meeting for discussion and print out copies of the trail maps for mark up and trail section marker installation assignments. The new trail map will not use the trail colors to indicate trail difficulty as it was previously used on the map. Colors will be used to show different trails only, trail difficulty will need to be indicated in some other fashion, perhaps just listed somewhere on the map in the trail area descriptions section.

Mr. Sloan indicated that he has a friend that could possibly produce some wooden signs for the Commission's trail areas. He will speak with him and see if he is interested.

The next scheduled meeting will be Thursday, July 19, 2018 at 7:30 PM.

Motion by Ms. Hickey to adjourn. Mr. Paiewonsky seconded the motion and it was voted 3-0 in favor.

Adjourn

9:00PM adjourn

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.