



CITY OF MELROSE

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

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Melrose Conservation Commission Minutes for July 19, 2018

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

Absent:

Members from Public present: Paul Moore

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

Minutes-

Motion by Ms. Hickey to approve the minutes from June 21, 2018, Mr. Paiewonsky seconded the motion and it was voted 7-0 in favor.

Invoices-

Solitude Lake Management Invoice for Task 2 from 2018 pond treatment contract \$3,725- Staff shared a copy of the invoice for the completed first task for the previously approved 2018 pond maintenance contract. Low dose alum was applied to Ell pond on June 26, seclear algaecide also applied with follow-up scheduled for July 18.

Motion by Mr. Weieneth to approve the \$3,725 invoice, Mr. Paiewonsky seconded the motion and it was voted 7-0 in favor.

MACC Annual member dues Invoice for \$669- Staff shared a copy of the invoice for the FY2019 Massachusetts Association of Conservation Commissions dues (MACC).

Motion by Mr. Drench to approve the \$669 invoice, Mr. Weieneth seconded the motion and it was voted 7-0 in favor.

Public Hearing– 7:35pm:

Abbreviated Notice of Resource Area Delineation – 0 Swains Pond Ave/Hillside Park by Sean Szekely (applicant), Thorsen Akerley (representative) from Williams and Sparages was present on behalf of the applicant. Ms. Murphy opened the public hearing. Mr. Paiewonsky briefly explained for the general public what an Abbreviated Notice of Resource Area Delineation (ANRAD) is and is not. It is a preliminary step or the very first step for a project. It is only to confirm the locations of the wetland resource areas

present. This will most likely be used in a later filing for a later development project, but that is not what is being discussed at this time.

Mr. Akerley explained that he and Greg Hochmuth (wetland scientist) from Williams and Sparages had gone out to the site and flagged the wetlands on two separate occasions. Ms. Murphy – delineation method used? Mr. Akerley – Both Hydric soils and vegetation methods used. Mr. Doucette- Only two data sheets included in application, more data was likely gathered, is it unusual to only have a couple of data sheets? Mr. Akerley- Sometimes on large wetland systems there can be more data sheets. The edges are fairly obvious on this system so additional sheets weren't generated.

Motion by Mr. Weieneth to open the hearing to public comment. Ms. Hickey seconded the motion and it was voted 7-0 in favor.

Diane Young, 102 Swains Pond Ave- Does the wetland abut Swains pond Ave? Mr. Akerley- the property does, the wetlands we flagged do not.

Meagan Campbell, 2 Maple Terrace- Question on where the wetlands are. Mr. Akerley showed the locations of the flagged wetlands on the map.

David Hayes, 18 Hillside park- Brook located off the edge of his property, lots of delicate plants in area. Would the Commission ever sell or allow the use of Commission land for development?

Ms. Murphy- The Commission has a very specific process that would need to be undertaken to do that. There are multiple steps necessary including a unanimous decision from the Commission to allow for that, there is no interest from the Commission to do that.

Debbie Wadland, 69 Swains pond Ave- Would the project create artificial wetlands?

Mr. Akerley- No plans he knows of for that, this is only to confirm the existing resource areas.

David Hayes- Large trees fell on the property years ago, changed the wetland boundaries, the Vernal Pool up near the Dexter Rd property (now known as Reagan's way) has changed. Ms. Murphy- Please contact staff (Eric Devlin) if you have identified a change in the vernal pool or wetlands in the area. Any development plans will need to come back before the Commission and the planning board, possibly other boards and commissions as well. Mr. Hayes- The road for Hillside park needs to be repaved, currently in very poor condition. It is a private rd, there are currently 6 homes on Hillside park.

Motion by Mr. Doucette to close the hearing to public comment. Mr. Weieneth seconded the motion and it was voted 7-0 in favor.

Site visit scheduled for August 8 at 7pm. Meet at the base of Hillside park (intersection with Maple Terrace).

Mr. Akerley agreed to continue the hearing to the next meeting on August 16 to allow for the Commission site visit.

Motion by Mr. Doucette to continue the public hearing to August 16 meeting. Ms. Hickey seconded the motion and it was voted 7-0 in favor.

Discussion

*Mr. Paiewonsky had to leave the meeting early.

Trail Stewards/Map update- Ms. Hickey summarized what was discussed at last meeting, she is working on the trail map update. Remove the aerial photo map and the fells map section. Text from Mayor and the Commission Chair should be updated, more general rather than specific quotes. Larger GIS map on one side, with details on the opposite/back side. City seal on the front could be replaced with a nice photo of something relevant to the trails.

Ms. Hickey marked up a copy of the trail map to assign sections to the Trail Stewards (Michelle Gately, Paul Moore and Jeffrey Barriss). Red, Blue and Green metal trail marker tags were distributed; a fourth color (white) could be used by flipping on of the tags over and using the back. Red will be used for the Main Seaview trail. Blue will be used for the main Flagg Acres Trail and Green will be used for the main Rocky view/Knox memorial trail. White can be used for side trails where appropriate. Some smaller, less used trails will be eliminated to avoid confusion.

Staff will check with the Parks department for approval/guidance on how to handle marking the Mt. Hood portion of the trail. Comments from stewards that some trees are being cut, possibly on the MT. Hood portion of the trail.

Mr. Sloan described some tips for stewards to install the trail markers. It is important to make sure that you can only see the next marker and not additional ones beyond that. The area will look over marked if you can see multiple markers in a row. Staff distributed a list of guidelines for marker installation.

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.

Victorian fair table- Staff will contact Friends of the Middlesex Fells to share a table with them at the fair

The next scheduled meeting will be Thursday, August 16, 2018 at 7:30 PM.

Motion by Mr. Doucette to adjourn. Mr. Weieneth seconded the motion and it was voted 6-0 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.