



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 August 16, 2018

Present: Kate Hickey, Aaron Weieneth, Ryan Sloan, Richard Doucette, and Zachary Drench

Absent: Susan Murphy, Michael Paiewonsky

Members from Public present: Paul Moore, Debbie Wadland

Mr. Doucette opened the public hearing at 7:30pm

Minutes-

Motion by Mr. Drench to approve the minutes from July 18, 2018, Mr. Weieneth seconded the motion and it was voted 5-0 in favor.

Invoices-

Solitude Lake Management Invoice for Task 3 from 2018 pond treatment contract \$2,075- Staff shared a copy of the invoice for the completed third task on the previously approved 2018 pond maintenance contract. Follow-up Seclear algaecide treatment at Ell pond was performed on 7/18/18. Invasive Water Chestnut was hand pulled on 7/26/18.

Motion by Mr. Drench to approve the \$2,075 invoice, Mr. Weieneth seconded the motion and it was voted 5-0 in favor.

Commission Name Tags W.B. Mason- \$207.60- Staff shared a copy of the invoice for the recently purchased wood block commission name tags for use at public meetings. 8 name tags purchased.

Motion by Mr. Doucette to approve the \$207.60 invoice, Mr. Drench seconded the motion and it was voted 5-0 in favor.

Friends of the Fells Victorian Fair table share \$100.00- Staff shared a copy of the invoice for the 2018 Melrose Victorian Fair space. The Friends of the Fells will share a table with the Commission and the Commission will share half the cost of the space. The space was \$200 so the Commission share will be \$100.

Motion by Ms. Hickey to approve the \$100.00 invoice, Mr. Drench seconded the

motion and it was voted 5-0 in favor.

Continued 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. Mr. Doucette opened the public hearing. Asked the applicant if they had submitted the additional data sheets that were requested at the last hearing.

Mr. Akerley explained that there had been a successful site visit last week but they have not submitted the additional data sheets yet. The Commission discussed whether it would be appropriate to close the hearing without the requested information or continue to the next meeting. Since the requested information could potentially result in a change in the delineation, it was deemed necessary to continue the hearing pending the requested additional data. Mr. Akerley agreed that the hearing should be continued to the next meeting in order to give them time to collect the additional data for the Commission to review. Mr. Doucette stated that the Commission would have the Order of Resource Area Delineation ready to be issued at the September 20 meeting once the requested data was submitted.

Motion by Mr. Doucette to continue the hearing to the September 20 meeting. Mr. Sloan seconded the motion and it was voted 5-0 in favor.

Discussion

Trail Stewards/Map update- Ms. Hickey updated the Commission on the new trail map progress. The map is pretty much complete, She would like to give the rest of the Commission and the stewards/ general public a chance to review the map before we have them professionally printed. She suggested that she could print out a draft version of the map herself to be distributed at the Victorian fair table (labeled as draft) and solicit comments from the public and fellow Commissioners there. It can also be used to promote that a new map is being produced and potentially get more people involved and coordinate better with the Friends of the Fells and their map.

Staff suggested that Ms. Hickey could send the map file over and a larger version could be printed for display at the Victorian fair table. Staff will send Ms. Hickey a copy of the Towners pond photo for possible use on the trail map.

Trail Stewards Paul Moore and Michelle Gately have completed marking their assigned portions of the Seaview and Flagg Acres trails. Mr. Moore raised a question regarding deadfalls on the trails. Mr. Doucette confirmed that there should not be anything that blocks the trails so it was ok to remove that material if it is blocking the trail. The main leg of the Seaview trail was marked with the red trail markers and the side loop was marked with “white” markers (red markers flipped over). There are still a few red markers on the newly marked “white” loop. It was determined that it was best to let the old markers age in place and replace them with the “white” markers over time as they fall off. Alternatively, staff suggested possibly putting a waterproof sticker or paint over the existing markers if necessary.

Staff relayed a comment from steward Gately regarding the green loop trail. It was confirmed by the Commission that the Green loop was to be mostly abandoned, with portions being included into adjacent trails if appropriate. A spur or something similar could be marked in the future if it leads to something interesting, otherwise it was to be abandoned.

Mr. Sloan has been in contact with a friend that is interested in donating some new routed wood signs for the Commission to use on the various properties throughout the City. The final signs should be similar in dimensions and style to the Flagg Acres/ Rocky view trail signs. Staff mentioned that there is currently a diverse mix of signs in use at the various properties at the moment. Photos of the various signs will be distributed to the commission for further review to settle on a consistent standard for future signs on our properties.

Staff was at Sewell Woods to look at the signs and the vernal pool. Some yard debris dumping has been taking place near the vernal pool. Staff will circulate a draft letter that will be sent to the neighborhood to address this and solicit comments from the members on the letter. Staff will organize a cleanup and contact DPW for coordination to remove the material once the cleanup takes place.

Victorian fair table- Friends of the Middlesex Fells has agreed to share their table with the Commission again this year. Staff has suggested that we discuss the trail map with them and the trail stewardship program at the table this year. It is a great opportunity for the Commission to better coordinate our shared interests with the Friends of the Fells and focus on the Melrose portion of the Middlesex Fells.

Members volunteered for shifts at the table, overlapping 1.5 hour shifts. Ms. Hickey said she could take the 12-1:30 shift, Mr. Weieneth could take the 1-2:30 shift and Mr. Sloan could take the 2-4 shift. Ms. Murphy has taken the first shift in the past, Staff will follow-up and confirm.

Ponds Program update from Staff- Staff updated the Commission on the latest developments. Algae treatment at Ell pond has been effective, very clear water. Submersed vegetation growth has increased this season, hand pulling of Water Chestnut wasn't enough this year, lots more still out there that they couldn't get to. Staff showed the members some of the seed pods that were collected earlier in the month. Larger effort will be necessary next year, Pond treatment company suggested mechanical raking but this could be cost prohibitive. Option for volunteer hand pulling effort to be explored for feasibility.

Old Business/ Commission Mail- Staff distributed Commission mail for review by the members.

The next scheduled meeting will be Thursday, September 20, 2018 at 7:30 PM.

Motion by Mr. Doucette to adjourn. Mr. Weieneth seconded the motion and it was voted 5-0 in favor.

Adjourn

8:45PM 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.