CITY OF MELROSE

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

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Melrose Conservation Commission
Minutes for September 20, 2018

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

Absent: Richard Doucette

Members from Public present: Paul Moore, Debbie Wadland, Stephen Capistron and Cathy Levin

Ms. Murphy opened the public hearing at 7:35pm

Minutes-

Motion by Mr. Weieneth to approve the minutes from August 16, 2018, Mr. Drench seconded the motion and it was voted 6-0 in favor.

Invoices-

Solitude Lake Management Invoice for Task 4 from 2018 pond treatment contract $4,300- Staff shared a copy of the invoice for the completed fourth task on the previously approved 2018 pond maintenance contract. Treatment of floating leaf and submersed vegetation growth at Towners pond and submersed vegetation growth at Swains pond was performed on 8/15/18.

Motion by Mr. Drench to approve the $4,300 invoice, Mr. Weieneth seconded the motion and it was voted 6-0 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. Drench opened the continued public hearing. The applicant has submitted the additional data sheets that were requested at the last hearing and the Commission reviewed them.

Mr. Akerley showed the locations for the new data sheets on the site plan for reference.
Mr. Weieneth – At the site visit it was pretty clear where the wetland line was, but it was deemed necessary to have some additional documentation.
Public comment: Cathy Levin inquired about what the future project would be. The

applicant has not disclosed that at this time, only asking to confirm the wetland bounds on the property.

Motion by Mr. Weieneth to close the public hearing. Ms. Hickey seconded the motion and it was voted 5-0 in favor. (Ms. Murphy abstained because she was not part of the quorum)

Motion by Mr. Paiewonsky to issue an Order of Resource Area Delineation approving the wetland boundaries as shown on the submitted plan. Mr. Weieneth seconded the motion and it was voted 5-0 in favor. (Ms. Murphy abstained because she was not part of the quorum)

Discussion

84 Granite St discussion – Stephen Capistron wished to speak with the Commission about a few potential solutions for flooding on his property. He shared a sketch of his property and indicated scooping out soil in the rear of the yard to increase the flood storage capacity and using the removed soil elsewhere on the property for landscaping purposes (refer to file 84 Granite st). Ms. Murphy – Compensatory storage needs to be very specific, done on a foot per foot basis. Mr. Capistron – existing flooding issue in the yard, half the lawn died this summer from flooding. Ms. Murphy – You will need a topo plan to show the existing and proposed grades and have storage calculations for the compensatory storage. Any proposed grade changes would need to be pretty subtle.

Trail Stewards/Map update- Sewall Woods vernal pool cleanup and Trail cleanup at Flagg acres this Sunday, September 23 at 9am. Two groups will be formed, one with several members for the targeted vernal pool cleanup and another group for Flagg Acres. Staff has coordinated with DPW for removal of bagged materials from both sites on the following Monday.

Ms. Hickey updated the Commission on the new trail map progress. Comments received from the public and Commissioners at the Victorian fair. Hillside park trail to be added. Some previous comments have already been incorporated into the map since the last meeting. No need to differentiate type of public open space (Parks dept. vs Conservation) for the map. Calibri font type used on the map, Natural features are italicized for differentiation. The front side of the map has a link to the Middlesex Fells map website, links to the Commission website and included the Melrose carry in- carry out policy.
Mr. Sloan- There is an actual trail that comes into the trail network from the playground area/parking lot at Mt. Hood that could be included on the map.
Trail Steward Paul Moore suggested to check how the map looks on a mobile phone since many people may opt to use that rather than a paper map.
Staff has provided a copy of the draft map to both Stoneham and Wakefield for additional comments on the shared overlapping trail areas. Wakefield has indicated interest in formalizing their trail areas and signing them in the near future.

Victorian fair table- The shared table with Friends of the Middlesex Fells was pretty popular. Unfortunately, many visitors to the table were confused about the map and

thought our maps were of the Fells. Many visitors thought we were the Friends of the Fells (despite Melrose Conservation Commission signs). Staff will look into the Sustainable Melrose group and see if we can find another partner organization to potentially share table space with in the future.

Encroachments- Staff received email from the Assessor's office on several properties with encroaching structures on Conservation land. Aerial photos shown to Commission. Potential options to address this issue were discussed. Staff will draft a short, informative letter to be distributed to these properties addressing the encroachment. The letter will be discussed at the next meeting for final approval and revisions before being sent out.

Leonard Rd tree complaints- 22 Leonard rd filed a complaint about tree branches from abutting conservation land falling on her driveway. Requested DPW check tree for pruning needs.

Reading Hill ave resident filed a complaint/ request for tree maintenance on the conservation land across the street from their home. Requested DPW check tree for pruning needs. Took moment to inform resident of yard waste dumping issue in the area as well.

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

New Associate/Alternate Member Application- Staff received a letter of interest and resume from Cathy Levin. She wishes to be considered for appointment as a new Associate/Alternate member of the Commission. She has been a Melrose Resident for about a year and a half.

The next scheduled meeting will be Thursday, October 18, 2018 at 7:30 PM.

Motion by Ms. Murphy to adjourn. Ms. Hickey seconded the motion and it was voted 6-0 in favor.

Adjourn
9:15PM 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.