



# 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 January 17, 2019

**Present:** Richard Doucette, Susan Murphy, Michael Paiewonsky, Kate Hickey, Zachary Drench

**Absent:** Ryan Sloan and Aaron Weieneth

**Staff present:** Eric Devlin

Members from Public present: Paul Moore, Thorsten and Heather Vogel

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

#### Minutes-

**Motion by Mr. Doucette to approve the minutes from December 20, 2018, Mr. Drench seconded the motion and it was voted 5-0 in favor.**

#### **Discussion**

Patriot Way Subdivision 217-0137 and 217-0138 – Ms. Murphy updated the Commission on what was discussed at the last meeting. Email received by staff indicating that the applicant/engineer representative will not be able to attend the meeting tonight, items discussed at previous meeting and the site visit have not been done. A Commission site visit took place on Sunday, January 6, 2019 at 2pm with the project engineer Erik Swanson. No rain had occurred within several days prior to the site visit but the detention pond was still filled with water. A clear layer of sediment/ organic layer was present in the detention pond. The stormwater report in the file is very clear that there is supposed to be infiltration in the detention pond. Staff will scan the stormwater report and email it to the engineer (Mr. Swanson).

Mr. Drench- Ongoing maintenance requirement will be necessary, there appears to be an ongoing maintenance issue with leaves in the detention pond from the site visit. Is there a clear document that defines who is responsible for maintenance?

Mr. and Mrs. Vogel (homeowners in the subdivision) detailed some of the previous maintenance work that they have done. Mr. Vogel confirmed that there is a trust document.

Mr. Paiewonsky- Do all the homeowners currently contribute money to the Homeowner's Association (HOA)? How is the HOA currently set up?

Mr. Vogel- The HOA just formed, they have only had one meeting so far. They are still trying to figure out how it will work exactly, what developer was responsible for before the transition over to the HOA.

This will be continued to the next meeting on February 7, 2019.

Invoice from Solitude Lake Management – Task 5 + Ell pond and Towners pond add-on monthly phosphorous testing - \$2800.00 invoice was received along with the year-end report. Staff explained that Solitude had acknowledged that there was a possible error with the results for at least one of the testing dates. The lab has re-run the tests and confirmed that the previous results were accurate. Staff will further investigate possible causes with Solitude Lake Management and have them work on submitting a recommended proposal for FY20 maintenance. Budget may be reduced pending City override.

Tree removal policy- Staff has received several tree removal requests recently and has reviewed tree removal policies in several other cities and towns. Staff would like to develop a tree policy and procedure to clarify the process for homeowners and cut down on staff time necessary for review. Questions/comments raised by the commission on the actual jurisdictional area, reduction of regulatory jargon in the proposed policy, and significance of pruning as actual alteration. Staff will send a copy of the draft documents to the Commission for further review and revisions.

Trail Stewards/Map update- Staff has been notified that trail maps are ready at the printer, they need to be picked up. Staff also requested printing quotes from a few other local printers. Prices were lower than the current printer, commission recommended going with the lowest price for the next printing.

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

40B Swains pond ave- Ms. Murphy attended a meeting with several other departments at City Hall earlier today. The developer indicated that the 40B project arose from a conservation Commission meeting in November, 2017. It appears that the developer has an engineering issue with the stream crossing for the 6 lot subdivision.

Massachusetts Society of Municipal Conservation Professionals (MSMCP)- Annual Membership. Staff suggested that the Commission join MSMCP, City appears to have been a member in the past, has lots of useful information/resources. Annual membership fee is \$20 for the City.

**Motion by Mr. Doucette to join MSMCP, Mr. Paiewonsky seconded the motion and it was voted 5-0 in favor**

The next scheduled meeting will be Thursday, February 7, 2019 at 7:30 PM.

**Motion by Mr. Drench to adjourn. Mr. Doucette seconded the motion and it was voted 5-0 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.