# CITY OF MELROSE

## CONSERVATION COMMISSION

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Melrose Conservation Commission
Minutes for February 07, 2019

**Present:** Richard Doucette, Michael Paiewonsky, Zachary Drench, Ryan Sloan and Aaron Weieneth
**Absent**: Susan Murphy and Kate Hickey
**Staff present:** Eric Devlin
Members from Public present: Paul Moore, Scott Happeny, Souren Perperian and Joanne Perperian.

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

Minutes-

**Motion by Mr. Doucette to approve the minutes from January 17, 2018, Mr. Drench seconded the motion and it was voted 5-0 in favor.**

**Public Hearing**
8 Cedarwood Lane- Scott Happeny, owner was present. Mr. Happeny explained that there are several trees near his home that an arborist (Barrett Tree Service) has recommended doing various pruning work and removing a few invasive trees. A 20" diameter oak tree was recently taken down by beaver activity and has fallen onto the house.
Mr. Happeny stated that he is not removing the willow trees, pruning them to protect the house only.
Mr. Doucette- What is the proposed timeframe for the work? Mr. Happeny- The tree company were booking appointments as soon as March when I got the initial estimate back in December.
Mr. Doucette- Major tree species present don't represent primarily wetland species, tree stumps not to be ground out, flush cut only and all debris to be removed from the site.
Mr. Drench- What is the closest point of work to the existing wetland area?
Staff- On the site visit I measured that one of the large willows is within 2' or 3' from the existing edge of the water.

**Motion by Mr. Doucette to issue a Negative 3 Determination of Applicability. Seconded by Mr. Paiewonsky and voted 5-0 in favor. Conditions to be included include requirement for at least 1 day advance notice prior to work and all debris to be removed from the area.**

**Discussion**

Patriot Way Subdivision 217-0137 and 217-0138 – Mr. and Mrs. Perperian were present, they wished to inform the commission that the Home Owner Association has not been established yet, they have only met a few times and the developer (Mr. Zanotti) is still a trustee. Mr. Doucette- Enforcement action from the Commission can only be carried out if the system is proven to not be working properly. Mr. Drench- One issue with enforcement would be who the enforcement order would be issued to since the Order of Conditions is tied to the properties themselves.
Mr. Perperian- Which other departments within the city would be able to address the issues with this subdivision?
Mr. Doucette- Since Planning released the bond for the roadway, the two most relevant departments would be the Department of Public Works and Conservation.

This will be continued to the next meeting on March 21, 2019, Staff has been in contact with the developer and the engineer that indicated there should be some progress towards a remedy by the next meeting.

Ponds –Staff explained that Solitude is working on a proposal for this coming year. Requested that they send a reduced scope proposal, maintenance mode only this year pending reduced budget with a target of around $7,000-$8,000. Show additional options as add-ons that are broken out separately that could potentially be added on pending budget. Staff is looking into possibility to get some volunteer training assistance from Mystic River Watershed Association for possible expanded hand pulling water chestnut effort at Ell pond as an alternative control method.

FEMA letter from 17 Burnett Street- Staff shared a copy of a letter from FEMA for an application to remove the dwelling at 17 Burnet Street from the floodplain. A community acknowledgement form was reviewed by the Commission and it was determined that the Commission doesn't have the authority to sign off on the form. The conservation Commission is not the floodplain manager for the City. Staff will forward the letter to the other departments for a resolution.

Tree removal policy- Staff will send the policies from several other towns to the commission for review. Current Ordinance sets the no construction zone at 20' from a wetland area, that will also be the limit for any tree stump grinding requests. No stumps within the no construction zone shall be ground out, flush cut only. All tree removal requests within the no construction zone shall require an Arborist letter.

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

The next scheduled meeting will be Thursday, March 21, 2019 at 7:30 PM.

**Motion by Mr. Weieneth 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.