



CITY OF MELROSE

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

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Melrose Conservation Commission Minutes for April 23, 2019

Present: Susan Murphy, *Richard Doucette, Zachary Drench, Kate Hickey and Ryan Sloan

Absent: Aaron Weieneth, Mike Paiewonsky

Staff present: Eric Devlin

Members from Public present: Paul Moore, Ellen Katz, Holly Palmgren and John Michalak.

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

Public Hearing

217-0204 MBTA Oak Grove station/Banks Place- Holly Palmgren, MBTA environmental construction manager and John Michalak from Nitsch engineering. Ms. Palmgren informed the Commission that a joint meeting with Malden didn't happen. Malden had already continued their separate meeting to April 16 before the Melrose meeting had taken place. Malden voted to close the public hearing at their April 16 meeting. Parking was relocated from the east side of Banks Place to the west side of Banks Place. A tree pit for stormwater mitigation will be added in Malden along with Granite curbs on the east side of Banks Place and no parking signs on the east side. The granite curbs were selected to deter potential illegal parking on the east side. The multi-use pathway project is not an MBTA project and would require the use of land owned by DCR.

Mr. Doucette inquired about the appropriate contact person at DCR for the pathway and the additional information items from the previous meeting: Bus width requirements, parking spaces on Banks Place and property lines details.

Ms. Palmgren- Appropriate contact person at DCR has not been identified at the moment, currently working with Senator Lewis's office. Bus operations group says buses are 10.9' wide- 12' travel lane is proposed. 8' parking lanes are typically used, most vehicles going to this station stay all day so a 7' wide parking lane was selected to minimize area.

Property line- Mr. Michalak showed the Commission updated plans with details on the property lines between MBTA and DCR. Space from the curb to the existing fence in Malden is 9-10'. More space required for a multi-use path (5' minimum separation between roadway and the paths is required). Mr. Michalak said there are 55 parking spaces on Banks Place in Melrose and under the new plan there would be 53, net loss of two spaces in Melrose. 144 total spaces currently on Banks Place Rd between Malden and Melrose. Under the relocated parking scheme, there would be a total of 104 spaces total, a net loss of 40 spaces total. Most of the lost parking spaces are in Malden.

Public Comment:

Ellen Katz- 70 Lynde st, Ped/Bike Advisory Committee member and Energy Commission member. Question on whether MBTA had seriously considered the suggestion to make Banks Place Rd one way from the last meeting? Ms. Palmgren- Bus operations has stated that they can't do that and Malden didn't like the idea of routing increased traffic through neighborhoods. Buses enter the site currently from both directions. Mr. Sloan- Possible to increase number of spaces under one way traffic plan by utilizing 45 degree spaces? Mr. Michalak- That wasn't looked at, possible to get more spaces but the same traffic routing issue remains.

Ms. Murphy- At some point in the future will MBTA be focused on alternative options on getting to and from the station that is not as heavily reliant on parking revenues and spaces? Ms. Palmgren- Currently, parking spaces at this station are gone by 7am. Demand for parking spaces is high, if the demand wasn't there then other options would be pursued more aggressively.

Ms. Palmgren, applicant for the project, waived the requirement for the 21 day time period to Issue an Order of Conditions for the project with the understanding that the Order of Conditions will be issued at the May 16 meeting date.

Motion by Mr. Doucette to close the public hearing and to issue an Order of Conditions at the May 16 meeting. Seconded by Ms. Murphy and voted 5-0 in favor.

217-0203 785 Lynn Fells Parkway- Special Conditions for the Order of Conditions were discussed. Fence on the rear of the property will be replaced and moved in 3 to 5 feet in from the property line. Straw wattles shall be wrapped around the corner of the property line once the shed (shown as plan as neighbors shed -to be relocated) is relocated onto the adjacent property.

Motion by Mr. Doucette to issue a standard Order of Conditions with the amended special conditions. Seconded by Mr. Drench and voted 5-0 in favor.

Minutes-

Minutes from April 4, 2019 were tabled to the next regular meeting.

Discussion

*Mr. Doucette left the meeting at this point. Ms. Murphy took over as chair for the remainder of the meeting.

Ponds –The pond treatment proposal was discussed. Staff will get more information on the line item about algaecide treatment at Swains and Towners ponds. Pending budget approval, Alum and the hand pull for water chestnut at Ell pond, with spot treatments at Towners and Swains was selected.

Motion by Ms. Murphy to approve the proposal for pond treatments by Solitude Lake Management for \$9,380. Seconded by Ms. Hickey and voted 4-0 in favor.

Swains Pond Ave/40B comment letter- Ms. Murphy is writing a letter to Mass Housing as the Conservation Commission chair.

Motion by Ms. Hickey to authorize Ms. Murphy to write a comment letter on behalf of the Conservation Commission. Seconded by Mr. Drench and voted 4-0 in favor.

Ms. Hickey updated the Commission on the Outdoor Classroom at the Hoover school. A cleanup event was recently held and was very successful. The Outdoor classroom is still being used and there was positive feedback from the school.

Tree removal policy- tabled until later date.

Spring trails Clean up - Sunday May 5, 9am-11am.

The next scheduled meeting will be Thursday, May 16, 2019 at 7:30 PM.

Motion by Ms. Hickey to adjourn. Ms. Murphy seconded the motion and it was voted 4-0 in favor.

Adjourn

8:30PM 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.
