



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 15, 2019

Present: Mike Paiewonsky, Kate Hickey, Ryan Sloan, Susan Murphy, Aaron Weieneth, Paul Moore*(appointment pending) and Melissa Riley*(Associate member appointment pending)

Absent: Richard Doucette

Staff present: Eric Devlin

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

Minutes-

Motion by Mr. Paiewonsky to approve the minutes from July 18, 2019, Ms. Hickey seconded the motion and it was voted 5-0 in favor.

Invoices-

MSMCP- Invoice discussed for annual membership dues to the Municipal Society of Massachusetts Conservation Professionals- \$20.

Motion by Mr. Weieneth to approve the \$20.00 invoice from MSMCP for the FY20 Annual Dues, Ms. Hickey seconded the motion and it was voted 5-0 in favor.

Solitude Lake Management- Three invoices (\$1,080 hand pull, \$2,650 Low dose Alum, \$2,395 additional algaecide and herbicide treatment) received for recent treatments at Ell pond. Alum and Hand pulling of Water chestnut along with two additional treatments beyond the previously approved contract (additional herbicide and algaecide applied to address unexpected nuisance growth from earlier this summer). Staff will coordinate with pond Management Company to have future contracts structured in a way to have additional treatments added on more quickly. Commissioners Doucette and Sloan conducted a volunteer hand pull of water Chestnut at Ell pond on August 3. Questions raised over whether Solitude had done the hand pull yet before the volunteer hand pull. Staff will follow up with Solitude to confirm when/if it was done before finalizing paperwork for invoice.

Motion by Ms. Hickey to approve the \$2,650 and \$2,395 invoices from Solitude Lake Management for the Alum treatment and both of the additional herbicide and algaecide treatments at Ell pond. Hand pull invoice for \$1,080 approved pending

confirmation from staff that service was actually completed. Mr. Sloan seconded the motion and it was voted 5-0 in favor.

Public Hearing:

Dep#217-0207 299 Swains pond Ave- Thorson Akerly, (Williams and Sparages), Maryanne O'Donnell, applicant present. Mr. Akerly had submitted a revised planting plan and received feedback from one of the commissioners for additional details. Spacing of the plantings was specified to be 5-7' for shrubs, 15' for trees. Professional Wetland Scientist on staff shall be on site to observe plantings. The applicant is open to a perpetual condition being added to protect the restoration area. New edge of lawn added to plan to delineate the boundary and pathway on far right edge of restoration area for access to the pond. Pathway will not have boats stored on it or in the water. Order of Conditions to have some conditions in perpetuity. Backwashing of filter to be directed upland. Maintenance of enhancement area plantings plan in perpetuity to be added to Order of Conditions.

Motion by Mr. Paiewonsky to close the public hearing for 217-0207 299 Swains Pond Ave. Seconded by Mr. Sloan and voted 4-0 in favor *Ms. Murphy was not part of quorum for this item.

Motion by Ms. Hickey to issue a standard Order of Conditions with several perpetual conditions regarding the buffer enhancement area and the pool. Understanding that the buffer enhancement area is to remain in perpetuity with no further encroachment permitted. Mr. Sloan seconded the motion and it was voted 4-0 in favor.

77-79 Messenger Court

Staff received a request from the applicant to continue to the September 19 meeting to allow more time to collect additional information. There was an understanding that this item will need to be late in the agenda to maintain a quorum for this item.

Discussion

National Grid 2304 Certificate of Compliance-

Polina Safran BSC group present on behalf of the applicant. Photos submitted of the new pole locations and vegetation re-growth in the restored areas. Staff conducted a site visit on 8/14/19 and reviewed the area. Work appears to have been done in compliance with the approved plans and the temporary disturbance has re-grown with healthy vegetation.

Motion by Mr. Paiewonsky to issue a Certificate of Compliance for 217-0199 National Grid 2304 ROW project. Ms. Hickey seconded the motion and it was voted 5-0 in favor.

55 Summit Ave tree cutting violation

Staff Received multiple complaints of tree clearing work near 55 Summit Ave. City owned conservation parcel abuts this property. Staff contacted building department and the owner was instructed to contact the office. Staff visited the property with Darren Gerry, Owner of 55 Summit ave, and reviewed the recent work. It was determined that at least two trees, native oaks, were cut on the city owned property and a large pine species was cut very close to the property line. Staff will return to the site to measure the cut stump diameters for record, measurement not available at this time. GPS locations of stumps taken to determine if they were on private property or City property.

Staff will seek feedback from the City forestry department and City engineering office for appropriate tree species replacement plantings by Mr. Gerry to restore the area. Mr. Gerry will come to the September 19 meeting for coordination of planting and locations of replacement trees.

Ell Pond Weed Watcher volunteer hand pull comments – Possibly could be an Eagle Scout project if there is a willing candidate. Mr. Sloan will look into preparing an informational poster on invasive water chestnut and possibly some other conservation issues to explain where and how problems form in the pond and what the Commission is doing to address them. This could be a nice visual item to display at the Victorian fair table this year.

Open Space subcommittee – A second meeting of the open space subcommittee is scheduled to take place immediately following the Conservation Commission meeting tonight (August 15).

Melrose Victorian Fair table – The fair runs from 11am-4pm on September 8. Members of the Commission volunteered for 2 hour shifts to ensure that the table is adequately covered. Shifts will be 11-1, 12-2, 1-3 and 2-4. Staff will email Commission with a sign-up sheet to coordinate shifts.

The next scheduled meeting will be Thursday, September 19, 2019 at 7:30 PM.

Motion by Ms. Hickey to adjourn. Mr. Sloan 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.