



CITY OF MELROSE

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

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Melrose Conservation Commission Minutes for September 19, 2019

Present: Mike Paiewonsky, Richard Doucette*(arrived at time indicated), Ryan Sloan, Susan Murphy, Aaron Weieneth, Kate Hickey*(arrived at time indicated) and Paul Moore*(appointment pending)

Absent: Melissa Riley*(Associate member appointment pending)

Staff present: Eric Devlin

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

Minutes-

Motion by Mr. Weieneth to approve the minutes from August 15, 2019, Mr. Paiewonsky seconded the motion and it was voted 4-0 in favor.

Discussion

***Mr. Doucette arrived at this point**

55 Summit ave - Darren Gerry, owner present. Staff explained background from last meeting, trees on adjacent conservation land cut during tree removal work that was being done on his property. Staff measured stumps of the cut trees and took gps locations of them. The stumps were 15", 16" and 25" diameter. 3 Trees to be planted on the site, minimum 2" caliper. City DPW will provide tree gator watering bags to assist in best chance of tree survival. Mr. Gerry agrees to provide access to a hose at the house for tree watering. Staff will work with Mr. Gerry to discuss and confirm further details.

Motion by Mr. Paiewonsky to issue a written enforcement letter with details, Mr. Sloan seconded the motion and it was voted 4-0 in favor, Mr. Doucette abstained.

West Knoll Feasibility study update/feedback- Joan Bell, Melrose Parks superintendent and Rick Stinson, Interim Department of Public Works Director present. The City is preparing to issue a Request For Qualifications (RFQ) soon and is looking for some feedback from the Commission on anything specific that should be included. The RFQ is going to be sent out relatively soon and once a consultant is selected, further details will likely be worked out.

A draft was circulated to the members for review. Mr. Stinson- Soil borings are to be

done on the site. Ms. Bell- the RFQ covers everything at the moment, will be broken into smaller items. Winchester recently completed a similar project along the Aberjona River. Some concern was expressed over any project that would take place in close proximity to open water resource areas. Parking issues for the high school were identified in the past as a focus area by the traffic commission. The possibility to improve stormwater BMPs in the parking lot should be considered in the study.

A question over whether the volunteer feasibility committee or the city office of planning and community development would be the client in the RFQ. There is a difference between a volunteer board and city staff. The draft RFQ names the feasibility committee as the client but later lists the Office of planning and Community development as the client as well.

The RFQ should highlight that there are current stormwater and water quality issues at the pond. This will force a consultant to address these issues in the study.

Victorian Fair table feedback- lake rd, street signs for access to trails question. Staff will follow up with inspectional services to see what the status is of the project. The sustainability section at the fair didn't have as much foot traffic as main street gets, this was a unique year due to the high level of political tables and lost sidewalk space due to construction of several buildings on main street. Better recognition of the Commission this year, confusion in the past as to which organization we represented with the shared table space in previous years.

Open Space projects- Fall Trail cleanup scheduled for Sunday October 20, 9-11am. Staff will alert the parks department to the ongoing dumping issue at Sewall woods.

Open Space subcommittee- Meeting date set for October 17, 2019 at 7pm. Will take place immediately before the scheduled Conservation Commission meeting that same night.

Public Hearing:

***Ms. Hickey arrived at this point**

77-79 Messenger Court

Mr. Doucette was acting chair for this portion of the meeting. John Ogren, Hayes Engineering present for the applicant. Supporting data received for the flood elevations submitted with the LOMAs that were previously used. Mr. Ogren believes that the data is invalid. The LOMAs treated the basin as a stream rather than a depression with a single outlet. The supporting information did not take this into consideration. Several studies have been conducted for the site in the past. The mother's day storm of 2006 said BFE was 71.1'-71.7'. A study conducted by Hayes Engineering over 30 years ago said 73.4'. More recent study conducted by Wright-Pierce in 2013 says BFE is 73.25'. This study used LIDAR and took more detailed cross sections of the tributaries. Mr. Ogren recommended using the 73.25' BFE established by the Wright-Pierce study as the accepted flood elevation.

Several members of the Commission agreed that the Wright-Pierce study seemed to be the most accurate. Lots of different values have been submitted to the Commission over time from various sources.

Public Comment

Arthur Defabio, 53 Greenwood st, and several others thanked the Commission and applicant for their efforts.

Mr. Ogren- Updated grading plan will be submitted for the next hearing, no change to building.

Donna Murphy, 154 Greenwood st, Wakefield- Houses on Greenwood street in Wakefield get flooded out before houses in Melrose.

Mr. Doucette - Upstream developments in Wakefield should have put in stormwater detention areas to help.

Stan Gryglik, 14 Ashburton Place-Submitted new photos to be added to the file. Concrete drain pipes and parts of drainage structures shown in photos, possibly from previous owner attempt on some drainage project. Discussion followed over the location of existing concrete pipes and material on the site. Question about the dimensions of the drain pipe, 15" or 30" under Messenger ct and onward. No plans that definitively show what the actual dimensions of the pipe(s) are. Staff will check with City engineering office to see if they can answer this question.

Mr. Doucette- (to applicant), clearly show limit of work on plans to show neighbors what would and would not change. A second site visit may be necessary for members that missed first site visit and see site with new plans.

Motion to continue the public hearing for 77-79 Messenger Ct to the October 17 meeting by Mr. Doucette. Mr. Weieneth seconded the motion and it was voted 6-0 in favor.

The next scheduled meeting will be Thursday, October 17, 2019 at 7:30 PM.

Motion by Mr. Doucette to adjourn. Mr. Weieneth seconded the motion and it was voted 6-0 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
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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.