



CITY OF MELROSE

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

City Hall, 562 Main
Melrose, Massachusetts
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Melrose Conservation Commission Minutes for May 07, 2020

Present: Susan Murphy, Kate Hickey, Aaron Weieneth, Richard Doucette and Paul Moore

Absent: Mike Paiewonsky and Ryan Sloan

Staff present: Eric Devlin

Ms. Murphy opened the Remote public meeting at 7:40pm and read the Remote meeting statement below.

Pursuant to Governor Baker's March 12, 2020 Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. c. 30A, §18, and the Governor's March 15, 2020 Order imposing strict limitation on the number of people that may gather in one place, this meeting of the Melrose Conservation Commission will be conducted via remote participation to the greatest extent possible. Specific information and the general guidelines for remote participation by members of the public and/or parties with a right and/or requirement to attend this meeting can be found on the City of Melrose's website, at www.cityofmelrose.org. No in-person attendance of members of the public will be permitted, but every effort will be made to ensure that the public can adequately access the proceedings in real time, or in the event that we are unable to do so, we will post on the mmtv3.org website an audio or video recording, transcript, or other comprehensive record of proceedings as soon as possible after the meeting.

All Votes will be recorded via roll call votes. There has been an extension to permitting deadlines applicable to Commission proceedings pursuant to Chapter 53 of the Acts of 2020. Deadlines extended out 45 days after conclusion of the State of Emergency.

Minutes-

Motion by Mr. Doucette to approve the minutes from April 16, 2020, as amended.

Mr. Weieneth seconded the motion. Roll Call vote: Richard Doucette – yes, Kate Hickey – yes, Paul Moore – yes, Susan Murphy – yes, Aaron Weieneth – yes
5-0 in favor.

Continued Public Hearing:

217-0209 Notice of Intent Lot 1 Maple Terrace - Ben Minnix (engineer Eaglebrook Engineering), Jay Bradley (applicant/owner), Nancy Bradley, Richard Mede (Medford

Survey). Ms. Murphy conducted a roadside inspection of the site, several other members visited the site individually since the last meeting. Mr. Bradley (owner) installed stakes to mark out to clarify the proposed driveway location.

Commission questions were answered by Mr. Minnix (Engineer for the project). Mr. Doucette- Site visit very useful, isolated land subject flooding question answered by the existing culvert, not that type of resource area. Driveway configuration makes sense, only place it could go. Question on the existing plastic cover in proposed driveway, what is there? Mr. Minnix- Plastic cover is for the existing sewage pump chamber from 20 Maple Terrace. That pump chamber is to remain and add a new pump chamber for the new lot.

Mr. Weieneth- Site visit was very helpful to explain proposed driveway configuration vs 2d plan.

Ms. Hickey- unable to visit site, comments from other commissioners useful.

Mr. Moore- Visited site, Maple Terrace is a private way currently, question on maintenance of roadway responsibility. Shared driveway issue mentioned at last meeting, homeowner association needed if shared responsibility for road maintenance vs a shared driveway? Jay Bradley- Melrose plows the street, Malden shares some of the responsibility for area too. Melrose collects trash from street. No homeowner association required as far as known.

Ms. Murphy- Agrees with other Commissioners that site visit helped illustrate why plan was set up as proposed.

Public comment- No comments

Waiver of the 20 foot no construction zone required for driveway, no other special conditions required

Motion by Ms. Murphy to grant a waiver from the 20 foot no construction zone requirement for access due to the characteristics of the site. Mr. Doucette seconded the motion. Roll Call vote: Richard Doucette – yes, Kate Hickey – yes, Paul Moore – yes, Susan Murphy – yes, Aaron Weieneth – yes

5-0 in favor – Unanimous

Motion by Ms. Murphy to issue an Order of Conditions for this project as submitted with standard special conditions. Mr. Weieneth seconded the motion. Roll Call vote: Richard Doucette – yes, Kate Hickey – yes, Paul Moore – yes, Susan Murphy – yes, Aaron Weieneth – yes

5-0 in favor – Unanimous

Staff is still working on getting the signature issue resolved to satisfy both Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection electronic signature requirements and the South Middlesex Registry of Deeds physical signature requirement.

217-0208 Notice of Intent 0 Swains Pond Ave/Hillside Park - The required quorum was not present from the Commission to hold the public hearing. The City of Melrose has not adopted the rules to allow a member to miss a meeting and be included in the quorum on

a subsequent meeting. One member that was required for the 4 members of the required quorum was not present to legally hold the hearing. May 21 will be the next meeting date that this item will need to be continued to.

Mr. Williams – We'd be happy to answer any questions from the Commission via email in addition to the peer review comments before the next meeting.

Ms. Murphy- Noted a design storm question that was raised in the peer review comments.

Mr. Williams- Response to peer review comments should be in soon, meeting on the 21 should be very productive

Motion by Ms. Murphy to continue the hearing to the May 21 meeting at 7:35 pm.
Mr. Doucette seconded the motion. Roll Call vote: Richard Doucette – yes, Kate Hickey – yes, Paul Moore – yes, Susan Murphy – yes, Aaron Weieneth – yes
5-0 in favor - Unanimous

Discussion:

Certificate of Compliance (217-0147) – re-issue for 20 Maple terrace – Since Commission was already visiting the area for the adjacent property, it was useful to see the site as well.

Ms. Murphy was monitoring construction when it was originally done long ago. Ms. Murphy didn't observe anything that stood out as not being in compliance.

Mr. Weieneth - no questions, site visit looked fine, old notes circulated by agent recommended issuance of a certificate of compliance.

Mr. Doucette - site looks fine

Motion by Ms. Murphy to issue a Certificate of Compliance for 217-0147 20 Maple Terrace, Seconded by Mr. Doucette. Roll Call vote: Richard Doucette – yes, Kate Hickey – yes, Paul Moore – yes, Susan Murphy – yes, Aaron Weieneth – yes
5-0 in favor – Unanimous

2020 ponds treatment proposal approval – Authorized initial treatment items at last meeting, no word from City on budgeting process for coming fiscal year. Prioritize contract for formal approval on each item before it is conducted by the pond company until we have a budget in place.

Not enough in current budget to fund the algaecide treatment. Additional \$1,200 Move this to the May 21 meeting to see if any progress is made on budget. Leave the contract as is until then.

New/Old Business-

Open Space projects- Ellen Katz has been going to open space parcels recently, she had some thoughts on the need to better mark some of the trail heads. Ryan Williams- Ped/Bike Committee commented on the City wayfinding grant (\$75,000 grant to City) for mostly signage and public art. Small group think signs should point to conservation

areas in addition to some other locations. Survey for input from public on where signs should direct people around the City to various places. Public meeting coming up for wayfinding committee, lots of responses already received (over 300 responses so far). All members of the Commission should fill out the survey. Trail stewards program included trail markers so it could connect to that as well for trail blazes. The next scheduled meeting will be Thursday, May 21, 2020 at 7:30 PM.

Quorum issue- Mr. Doucette suggested that the quorum requirement rule be considered by the City at some point in the future to avoid the issue from earlier in this meeting. Ms. Murphy stated that it is something that the City would need to adopt City wide, it cannot be only adopted for the Commission.

Motion by Ms. Murphy to adjourn. Mr. Doucette seconded the motion and it was voted 5-0 in favor. Roll Call vote: Richard Doucette – yes, Kate Hickey – yes, Paul Moore – yes, Susan Murphy – yes, Aaron Weieneth – yes
5-0 in favor – Unanimous

Adjourn
8:25PM 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.
