



CITY OF MELROSE

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

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Melrose Conservation Commission Minutes for July 16, 2020

Present: Susan Murphy, Richard Doucette, Paul Moore, Ryan Sloan, Mike Paiewonsky and Kate Hickey
Absent: Aaron Weieneth
Staff present: Eric Devlin

Ms. Murphy opened the Remote public meeting at 7:30pm 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. 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 Ms. Murphy to approve the minutes from June 18, 2020, as written. Mr. Paiewonsky seconded the motion.

Roll Call vote: Kate Hickey – yes, Paul Moore – yes, Susan Murphy – yes, Michael Paiewonsky – yes, J. Ryan Sloan – yes
5-0 in favor.

Mr. Doucette arrived at this point.

Invoices-

FY2021 MACC membership dues \$696.00

Motion by Ms. Murphy, Second by Ms. Hickey to approve the MACC FY2021 Membership dues.

Roll Call vote: Richard Doucette – yes, Kate Hickey – yes, Paul Moore – yes, Susan Murphy – yes, Michael Paiewonsky – yes, J. Ryan Sloan – yes
6-0 in favor.

Discussion:

Order of Conditions 217-0211 Notice of Intent 10 West Street - John Ogren, Hayes Engineering and Joe Barrett (Owner) present.

Ms. Murphy read the project advertisement. Mr. Ogren described the project, stating that there are no wetland resource areas on the property. Wetland resource areas (BVW) located offsite to the west that is owned by the City. No elevation on area flood map. Applicant plans to raze the existing dwelling and construct a new single family dwelling with a driveway out front to connect to West street and a garage. No garage on the existing property. New dwelling is about 100 square feet larger than the existing dwelling. No proposed work within 20' of the BVW. Several trees on-site that are proposed for removal due to proximity to existing dwelling or that are leaning towards the dwelling. Remainder of site to remain in existing wooded condition. Additional 320 square feet of impervious area over the existing conditions.

Zone A flood plain shown on the City owned property offsite.

Ms. Murphy- Improvements to street proposed? Remain as gravel or to be paved?

Mr. Ogren- Street to remain as gravel. Street is 15-20 feet from the proposed house location. No proposed replacement trees on the plan. Several trees to be removed that are approximately 15-20 feet from the house

Mr. Doucette requested a description of the site erosion control plan for the rear of the property.

Mr. Ogren- Silt fence to be used. Elevation 97 at rear of proposed house. 7 foot drop from rear of proposed house to erosion controls line. 18" diameter oak is one of the larger trees shown for removal on plan.

Mr. Paiewonsky noted that there is no drywell shown on plan for rooftop runoff for increased impervious surface.

Mr. Ogren- Driveway runoff to be pitched to the sides. House footprint increased by 100 square feet. No proposed drywell or infiltration area. No drain structures in the street.

Ms. Murphy- sufficient soils exist on-site for drywells? Don't want to increase chances for erosion given grade to the wetland from house.

Mr. Ogren- Downspouts proposed at 4 corners that discharge direct to lawn area. Some proposed fill to the rear of the house. Will look into a shallow infiltration area in the backyard.

Mr. Moore inquired about the locations of the new retaining walls and heights.

Mr. Ogren- existing railroad tie and stone retaining walls to be removed. New approx. 2.5' retaining wall towards rear of house, approx. 2' high retaining walls towards sides

of home and a new approx. 1.5' retaining wall at the limit of work. Undetermined material for new retaining walls, likely to be a landscaping/concrete block material.

Mr. Doucette asked who current owners of the property are and if this new home would be occupied by them or different owners. Joe Barrett and Rose Priest - current owners. Not planning to live there once new house is constructed. New owners unknown.

Condition for roof runoff to be directed to an infiltration area proposed. Agent to put language together in special conditions.

Motion by Mr. Doucette to close the public hearing and issue a standard Order of Conditions with roof runoff infiltration special condition. Mr. Moore seconded.

Roll Call vote: Richard Doucette – yes, Kate Hickey – yes, Paul Moore – yes, Susan Murphy – yes, Michael Paiewonsky – yes, J. Ryan Sloan – yes
6-0 in favor.

Ell Pond Water Chestnut – Volunteer water chestnut pull date set for Sunday July 26 @ 9am. Ell pond Water Chestnut limited volunteer Task Force to be created. Specific time frame for water chestnut management needed. Staff will create an email distribution group for volunteer coordination. Various methods discussed from previous attempts to manage growth. Just removing seeds and leaving plants suggested, would be difficult to determine which plants had been addressed already by others. Better to remove whole plants.

Mornings and evenings recommended to avoid midday heat. Last volunteer pull was about 2 hours, so coordinated start times to allow for about 2 hours.

Discussion on longer term planning on how to manage this. Will reassess based on progress from expanded hand pulling effort this year.

One volunteer was very interested in getting more ongoing invasive management attention from the City.

Pulled water chestnut material dump location to be determined.

Techniques and materials discussed, very easy to identify. Doesn't spread by fragments, seeds only so it is pretty easy to remove by hand by volunteers. Grows in shallow areas mostly

New/Old Business-

2020 pond treatment plan summary -Algaecide, Alum and volunteer Water chestnut hand pull for Ell pond, Herbicide treatments for Towners and Swains ponds and year end report, post treatment inspection reports for all three ponds.

Remaining budget discussed vs additional tasks for current ponds treatment contract.

Trail Stewards comments – DPW installed several trash barrels along Swains pond Ave near Towners pond. DPW is regularly emptying them. They have been very useful for the Trail stewards during cleanups.

The next scheduled meeting will be Thursday, August 20, 2020 at 7:30 PM.

Motion by Ms. Murphy to adjourn. Mr. Paiewonsky seconded the motion and it was voted 6-0 in favor.

Adjourn

8:45PM 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.