



CITY OF MELROSE

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

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Melrose Conservation Commission Minutes for March 18, 2021

Present: Richard Doucette, Eugenia Gibbons, Kate Hickey, Jason Jancaitis, Paul Moore, Michael Paiewonsky and Ryan Sloan

Absent:

Staff present: Eric Devlin

Mr. Doucette 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.

Minutes-

Motion to approve the minutes from January 21, 2021 and February 18, 2021, as amended by Mr. Doucette. Seconded by Mr. Sloan.

Roll Call vote: Richard Doucette – yes, Eugenia Gibbons- yes, Kate Hickey- yes, Jason Jancaitis- yes, Paul Moore- yes, Michael Paiewonsky- yes and Ryan Sloan- yes
7-0 in favor.

Public Hearing:

Request for Determination of Applicability – 345 Swains Pond Ave

Steven Saraceno of Saraceno Construction, Contractor for the Costellos (applicant) was present. Mr. Saraceno described the proposed work. Property located on 345 Swains Pond Ave, stone border at the far east side, adjacent to the rear property line. A wetland area exists on the down gradient side of the stone border and a stream on the property

south side that goes underground into a culvert along the right property line. Applicant proposes to construct an approximately 8 foot by 16 foot deck with access east side rear of the dwelling. Hand digging at base of the stair area and three main support posts. The main support posts will require excavation by machine (small skid steer e.g. bobcat). Machine access on the left side of the property with no disturbance closer than 26 feet to a jurisdictional area. A row of staked hay bales will be installed up gradient of the 20 foot no construction line and maintained for the duration of the project. The bulk of all construction materials will be stored in the driveway area in front of the home. All disturbed areas will be loamed and seeded after construction. Mr. Doucette asked for the expected construction start time. Mr. Saraceno – A few items remain to complete inside the home, the deck still needs to receive a building permit, so this portion of the project is anticipated to begin in late April/early May.

Motion by Mr. Doucette to issue a Negative 3 Determination with the standard Erosion controls conditions. Second by Ms. Hickey.

Roll Call vote: Richard Doucette – yes, Eugenia Gibbons- yes, Kate Hickey- yes, Jason Jancaitis- yes, Paul Moore- yes, Michael Paiewonsky- yes and Ryan Sloan- yes 7-0 in favor.

Certificate of Compliance- 10 West Street

Staff stated that revised plans had been submitted by the applicant with clarification on the areas of pre-existing riprap and new added riprap on the property. Mr. Doucette stated that approved plan didn't have enough detail on this area given the steep slope and existing boulders. Initial pre-construction photos of site depict thick vegetation cover of the yard in this area.

Motion by Mr. Doucette to issue a Certificate of Compliance. Ms. Gibbons seconded the motion.

Roll Call vote: Richard Doucette – yes, Eugenia Gibbons- yes, Kate Hickey- yes, Jason Jancaitis- yes, Paul Moore- yes, Michael Paiewonsky- yes and Ryan Sloan- yes 7-0 in favor.

Order of Conditions – 357 Porter Street

Mr. Doucette explained that the Public hearing was closed at the prior meeting. Updated plans submitted showing the vernal pool off the rear of the property. Staff shared a draft copy of the Special Conditions for Commission review, one outstanding item for consideration was specific language for undeveloped portion of the yard to protect the vernal pool. Specific boundary defined for no further disturbance in perpetuity as the retaining wall that is just outside of the 20 foot no construction line. Staff will need to confirm that the retaining wall, once constructed is in the correct location. Revised plan dated 1-27-2021 add vernal pool is the approved plan. Mr. Sullivan confirmed that the revised plan was dated 1-27-2021 for the record. Construction work expected to begin after demo work on the existing structure. Staff reminded applicant about the 10 day appeal period and Mr. Doucette stated that staff must inspect erosion controls before any earthmoving begins on site.

Motion by Mr. Doucette to issue an Order of Conditions for 217-0212 357 Porter

Street with the special conditions that were discussed. Second by Mr. Paiewonsky.

Roll Call vote: Richard Doucette – yes, Eugenia Gibbons- yes, Kate Hickey- yes, Jason Jancaitis- yes, Paul Moore- yes, Michael Paiewonsky- yes and Ryan Sloan- yes
7-0 in favor.

Discussion:

77-79 Messenger Court LSP letter-

This item was continued to the April 15 meeting. The applicant's representative will be present to explain the plan. Staff has received two letters from the neighbors expressing concerns about the property. Mr. Doucette explained some of the history of the project site to the two new members.

New/Old Business items

Trail memorial – Flagg Acres

Staff spoke with Ms. Samson prior to the meeting. She expects to have more details by the April 15 meeting.

Trail Cleanup event -

Mr. Sloan asked when the Commission Spring cleanup date was. Possible opportunity for Commission members and members of the family for the trail memorial bench look at the site together. Staff stated that the date hadn't been set yet, typically at some point in April or May. City wide cleanup with Keep Melrose Beautiful is planned for Earth week, April 24. Mr. Moore stated that the turn out for the last cleanup with Keep Melrose Beautiful was much better than we have gotten in the past. Staff will contact Keep Melrose Beautiful and coordinate with them for our cleanup day to be combined with their event.

Event information will be shared on the Conservation Commission Facebook page by Mr. Paiewonsky. Trail Stewards are doing a pretty good job at keeping the trash levels on the trails down.

Meeting point will be at the Flagg Acres parking area.

Ell Pond Water Chestnut update –

Mr. Sloan stated that the memo was sent to the Mayor's Office and the City Auditor's office. Patrick Prendergast in the Mayor's office confirmed that he received it. Staff has spoken with Solitude lake management and they have stated that there is an area that looks like suitable access could be gained without the crane.

Latest budget talks were for items over \$50,000, so this item doesn't look like it came up yet. \$27,500 would be the line item for this. Staff to check in with Mayor's office to get another update on the status. Staff noted that Patrick is leaving the Mayor's office soon. Budgeting and contract needs to be organized soon. Treatment needs to be done late July/Early August. Update note to Mayor's office should stress the timing sensitivity component for treatment this year. Since this treatment program will be ongoing for several years, it should be built in as a standard line item on future contracts/proposals. Order of Conditions will be necessary for this treatment as well from DPW or Parks since Parks owns the pond. Property owner should be the one to submit the NOI application.

Potential new Open Space Acquisition-

Staff Stated that City Council approved the Killam land donation to the Commission.

Staff will send a map to the members to show the new area and that this gives the Commission an opportunity to reconnect the trail there. Staff suggested another letter of support for some other parcels that two other property owners have indicated an interest in selling to the City at the assessed value for conservation purposes.

The donated parcel is now public open space and it should be updated on MassGIS layer as well to reflect that it is public, protected open space.

Staff will send map of the potential new properties to the Commission members for review and they can individually go visit the sites to assess the areas and figure out where to go forward from there.

The next scheduled meeting will be Thursday, April 15, 2021 at 7:30 PM.

Motion by Mr. Doucette to adjourn. Mr. Paiewonsky seconded the motion and it was voted 7-0 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.
