



CITY OF MELROSE

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

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Melrose Conservation Commission Minutes for April 15, 2021

Present: Richard Doucette, Eugenia Gibbons*(arrived at point indicated), Kate Hickey, Paul Moore, Michael Paiewonsky and Ryan Sloan

Absent: Jason Jancaitis

Staff present: Eric Devlin

Mr. Doucette opened the Remote public meeting at 7:35pm 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 March 18, 2021 minutes, as written. Second by Mr. Paiewonsky.

Roll Call vote: Richard Doucette – yes, Eugenia Gibbons- absent, Kate Hickey- yes, Jason Jancaitis- absent, Paul Moore- yes, Michael Paiewonsky- yes and Ryan Sloan- yes 5-0 in favor.

Public Hearing:

Request for Determination of Applicability – 10 West St

Peter Michelson, homeowner was present. Mr. Michelson described the site and that the current riprap has created a sort of moat around the property. He proposed an approximately 10 step stone staircase to provide access to the lower area. Mr. Doucette – Who is going to do the work? Contractor? Mr. Michelson- Same contractor that did the initial retaining walls on the property will be doing this work as well.

Mr. Doucette- Is the silt fence still on the site? Mr. Michelson- yes. I would also like to remove the boulder near the large tree, keep the tree.

Mr. Moore- Question on how work is proposed to be done on the site, would you add fill to the site to make it level to the new retaining wall?

Mr. Michelson- yes, Fill to be added right after the new retaining wall is built.

Mr. Doucette- Silt fence may not go far enough on the left side of the plan to provide adequate protection. May need to be extended.

Motion by Mr. Doucette to issue a negative 3 determination with erosion controls and 48 hour notice. Second by Mr. Paiewonsky.

Roll Call vote: Richard Doucette – yes, Eugenia Gibbons- absent, Kate Hickey- yes, Jason Jancaitis- absent, Paul Moore- yes, Michael Paiewonsky- yes and Ryan Sloan- yes 5-0 in favor.

*Ms. Gibbons arrived at this point

Notice of Intent – 17 Burnett Street

Brian Timm of RJ Oconnell Associates, Richard Kirby and Julia Hoogleboom of LEC environmental and Cathy Gilberto, Homeowner were present.

Mr. Kirby- Earlier plans from old filing that was not completed showed an 8” perforated pipe below grade that connects to a catch basin in Burnett Street. Water on the site currently backs up onto adjacent properties during flood conditions. The linear section of the flood storage area is dominated by phragmites, a few native elderberries were also observed. Current flood storage area extends onto adjacent properties.

Mr. Kirby shared his screen and plans for the site were shown.

Brian Timm- Point A is a 30” discharge pipe. It discharges out to Burnett Park. The catch basin immediately next to the site is too low. Point c is the originally proposed catch basin connection. 8” underground pipe, 1% pitch and will keep the original 102 elevation.

Flood plain design requires no fill within flood plain. Invert will remain at elevation 102.

Mr. Moore- Check valve details, will it get stuck at some point?

Mr. Timm- The top of the pipe is submerged; a manual check valve is to be installed on the site that the owner will need to be trained to operate.

Mr. Doucette – what is the Rim of the catch basin? DPW should be involved with the design of the system.

Mr. Timm-

Ms. Hickey- Check valve maintenance by the homeowner? Seems like a lot of responsibility for one homeowner. Neighbors should be included in the training on how to operate the valve.

Mr. Timm- The neighbors could be included in the training.

Mr. Kirby- Operational manual could be stored in the file in the Conservation office.

Referenced in the Order of Conditions, if issued. Planting and phragmites removal plan shared. A hazard tree was removed from the area this past fall.

Mr. Paiewonsky- Are the existing grades to be maintained, as is?

Mr. Kirby- yes, take existing spot elevations and replace with wetland soils during phragmites removal. Will keep existing flood storage, very limited area to gain additional flood storage.

Mr. Doucette- Herbicides may be necessary in the future, phragmites is very difficult to treat mechanically. Mr. Paiewonsky- How does this plan help the existing flooding

problem?

Mr. Kirby- No outlet currently exists on the site. During large storms it will still back up, this design will reduce the number of instances that it floods.

Public comments: Jeff Green, 76 Granite Street. The bottom of the street forms a sort of dam. Ponding extends past my house to 82 Granite street, would this plan have a noticeable effect granite street flooding?

Mr. Timm- Ponding of water should go down.

Mr. Doucette- Staff should review the existing 17 Burnett street file and read through the history.

Erica Vanderhoof- Neighbor, City built the catch basin and a huge berm. Water in the area backs up further onto nearby properties after that work. Many area yards are at 101 elevation.

Mr. Timm- Plan is looking to match the same elevations that were previously approved by the Commission in the past filing.

Site visit at 17 Burnett street scheduled for Thursday, April 29 at 5 pm. Meet at 17 Burnett Street

Applicant agrees to continue to May 20th Meeting.

Motion by Mr. Doucette to continue the hearing to the May 20th meeting. Second by Mr. Sloan.

Roll Call vote: Richard Doucette – yes, Eugenia Gibbons- yes, Kate Hickey- yes, Jason Jancaitis- absent, Paul Moore- yes, Michael Paiewonsky- yes and Ryan Sloan- yes
6-0 in favor.

Discussion:

8 Hemenway Avenue Request for Certificate of Compliance-

Stephen Amero, Homeowner was present. A letter from the applicant's engineer was received along with as-built plans. Some minor deviations were highlighted in the letter and discussed.

Motion by Mr. Doucette to issue a Certificate of Compliance, Second by Mr. Paiewonsky.

Roll Call vote: Richard Doucette – yes, Eugenia Gibbons- yes, Kate Hickey- yes, Jason Jancaitis- absent, Paul Moore- yes, Michael Paiewonsky- yes and Ryan Sloan- yes
6-0 in favor.

77-79 Messenger Court LSP letter-

Dena Tomassi of Envirotrac, Inc and Pamela Roberto, property owner was present.

Ms. Tomassi coordinated locations on site for best spots to sample. Sampling depths is based on visual inspection. Staining, odors and ionization inspection for various contaminants.

Mr. Doucette- Timeline for work to start and is the MA Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) the reporting body?

Ms. Tomassi – A contractor is to be selected once approval is obtained and MA DEP is

the primary reporting body. Mr. Bird, the Licensed Site Professional (LSP) is bound to comply with the regulations. The detected quantities of contaminants will determine what is required to be reported to MA DEP.

Mr. Moore – Concrete sewer pipe debris on the site, a test pit may be needed in that area since removal of that debris may disturb soil.

Ms. Tomassi – There is room to decide to collect more material. Locations were selected based off of owner description of the property.

Arthur Defabio – December 18 or 20th of 2019 was the date of the last meeting for this property prior to the issuance of the Order of Conditions. Test pit locations should be selected by a site visit, not from a conversation. Isolated wetland with substantial debris in it on the site that should be an additional test pit location. The original home on site could have contained an asbestos lined coal fired furnace.

Stanley Grylik – Visited the site on March 17. Concerns about soils in this area and the depth of peat on the site. Cited some soil test borings from his nearby property on ashburton place from 1983. Original foundation of the home on the site is unknown, lots of debris towards the proposed swale and compensatory storage area. Requested 20-25 foot depth test pits on site. Wants to know how the LSP will monitor the contractor on the site. Would like the contractor to be independent of the homeowner and confirmation of the depths that the test pits will be excavated to.

Ms. Tomaasi – LSP will supervise the contractor, the property owner will hire the contractor and the LSP will be onsite to work with the contractor during the work. Depths of test pits will vary and are based on visual inspection at the site. Staining of soil indicates when to stop digging.

Mr. Doucette- The Commission will require a minimum of 48 hours notice in advance of the work.

Mr. Paiewonsky- the LSP is looking for hazardous materials on the site. 7 test pits indicated on the plan, can we confirm if this is limited to only 7 test pits?

Mr. Doucette- 7 is a likely starting point, more likely if contaminants are observed.

Trail memorial – Flagg Acres-

Ms. Samson was present, she received an estimate from an installer and selected a bench product. Pavers to be used for bench installation.

Mr. Sloan – April 24 is the trail cleanup day at 9am. Opportunity to look at the site and members of the family can help with the trail.

Ponds Contract-

Staff shared a copy of the revised pond contract from Solitude Lake Management. Several items are time sensitive. Funding is anticipated but has not been appropriated yet. Staff has a meeting scheduled with the City ponds task force next week to discuss funding process. A short extra meeting on April 24th (at the trail cleanup day) to be held pending additional information on funding from staff meeting. Staff will post the short, extra April 24 meeting.

Finn McSweeney will be conducting a Bittersweet cutting project at Ell pond on April 18. Mr. McSweeney had previously shown some students from the Melrose High School Environmental club how to identify bittersweet and how it ends up girdling trees. They then marked them for cutting by a larger group. The group is just going to cut out 1” sections of the bittersweet vines.

Trails- Tree cutting and a recurring trail steward item for follow-up on steward reports to be added to future agendas.

The next scheduled meeting will be Thursday, May 20, 2021 at 7:30 PM.

Motion by Ms. Gibbons to adjourn. Ms. Hickey seconded the motion and it was voted 6-0 in favor.

Adjourn

10:00PM 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.