



CITY OF MELROSE

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

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Melrose Conservation Commission Minutes for September 16, 2021

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

Absent:

Staff present: Eric Devlin

Mr. Paiewonsky opened the Remote public meeting at 7:30pm and read the remote meeting notice. All members participated remotely.

Minutes-

August 19, 2021 meeting minutes.

**Motion by Mr. Paiewonsky to approve minutes from August 19, 2021, as amended.
Second by Mr. Sloan.**

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

Public Hearing:

36 Slayton Rd- Applicant submitted a request for a continuance to the October 21 meeting to review alternative designs and to collect the requested information from the previous meeting.

New quorum was established at August 19, 2021 meeting with all members present.

Several abutters interested in attending the continued hearing, instructed to call Conservation office prior to next hearing date to confirm if this item is on the agenda.

Discussion:

217-0153 Certificate of Compliance Re-issue- Applicant requested to continue to the October 21 meeting, attorney would like to be present to discuss. Original was never recorded at registry. Staff also contacted the property owner to remind them that the new Order of Conditions that was issued for the same property in July must be recorded before that work can take place (217-0213).

Rocky View Trail Connection- Staff has meeting set up with an Eagle Scout candidate to look over the area and see if this could be a project that he could take over. Staff previously laid out some orange painted small stones along a potential trail route path for review. Trail Steward Craig Molway offered to take a look at it, has some experience with trail building. He discussed several other areas that would require some stream crossings and some major erosion issues that should be addressed going up the rocky view trail toward the Hoover school.

Full day's work with volunteers for the erosion issue on the trail to address it. Stairs originally existed in that area approximately 20 years that have completely rotted out and the trail is too steep in its current condition. Some materials would need to be purchased.

Trail Cleanup day- Saturday October 2, meet at Flagg Acres parking area. Staff discussed whether to add additional trail maintenance tasks and vegetation management/control to it since overall trash volume has been improving in the area. (Trail stewards and KMB efforts have been a huge improvement, thanks! Spring is best time to do the invasive species control, rather than the fall. Trail maintenance of pruning adjacent vegetation to widen existing trails.

Send out notice to volunteers to bring whatever tools they can (loppers, pruners, rakes, etc...)

Invoices:

Solitude Lake Management SeClear Algaecide treatment at Ell Pond invoice -\$1,235.00 Staff explained that this treatment occurred late in the season. Discussion on Water chestnut situation and planning for treatment to go forward next summer. Treatment would need to occur for multiple years, funding only secured for 1 year currently. Other City departments planning to put it into another funding mechanism. Add funding as a line item to our budget request so that we can fund it for subsequent years. MACC fees line item will also need to be increased in the budget request.

Motion by Ms. Gibbons to approve the invoice for \$1,235.00. Seconded by Mr. Sloan.

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

Agent Hours – Commission Treasurer discussed the process to be able to increase staff hours for this year. Going forward, it can be added to the budget request for subsequent years.

Jeana McNeil of Zero Waste Melrose was present to discuss some questions about the Ell Pond Park project and the meeting that took place earlier this month. Artificial turf field concerns raised and question about role of the Conservation Commission in the review process for the project. Question if the test boring report from Weston and Sampson is going to be shared publicly. Toxics Use Reduction Institute (TURI) at UMass Lowell has a document with details on the various harmful components in artificial turf.

Staff will share link to this information to Commission members. -

https://www.turi.org/Our_Work/Community/Artificial_Turf

Mr. Paiewonskey - A Notice of Intent would be filed by the City since it would occur within 100 feet of a vegetated wetland and reviewed by the Conservation Commission at a public hearing. The Commission would issue an Order of Conditions as long as the project complies with the Wetlands protection act and the Melrose Wetlands Ordinance. Pre-filing presentation before the Commission with the draft design should take place

Mr. Moore was the Commission representative at the recent meeting and provided a brief overview of what had been discussed at that meeting. Formal report hasn't been submitted to the City yet from the study team for Ell pond park. Commission is working to ensure pond is protected. There is another meeting in October for Ell pond park. Peat is likely present under the whole area from preliminary report, but an official report hasn't been submitted to the City yet. Preference from Commission is for natural turf field, Parks department seems to want an artificial turf field for maximum field use availability. No cost benefit analysis or details on drainage system have been completed yet, rough cost estimate for various plan versions mentioned to be added as they progress in the design process. Another Ell pond park meeting is supposed to take place at some point next month, no specific date mentioned yet.

Trail Steward reports- No new reports of note recently. Craig Molway walked the entire trail out and mentioned that the stream crossing on the blue trail at Flagg Acres is completely flooded out and impassible with the current stones crossing. Suggested possible trail grant be sought to get a new bridge over this area, about 10 feet of water that is too wide to cross.

Resignation- Ms. Hickey submitted her letter of resignation from the Commission. This will be her last meeting with the Commission.

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be Thursday, October 21, 2021 at 7:30 PM.

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