



CITY OF MELROSE

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

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Melrose Conservation Commission Minutes for January 20, 2022

Present: Ryan Sloan, Gwendolyn Orford, Jason Jancaitis, Michael Paiewonsky, Chris Redfern and Paul Moore

Absent: Eugenia Gibbons

Staff present: Eric Devlin

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

Minutes-

December 16, 2021 meeting minutes.

Motion to approve the December 16, 2021 minutes, as written. Second by Ms. Orford.

Roll Call vote: Eugenia Gibbons- absent, Jason Jancaitis – yes, Paul Moore – yes, Gwendolyn Orford – yes, Michael Paiewonsky- yes, Chris Redfern –yes, Ryan Sloan- yes.

6-0 in favor.

Invoices:

Legal ad notice for Ell Pond NOI - \$143.83

Melrose ponds NOI, Solitude Lake Management - \$4,601.14

Both invoices were discussed together, to be paid out of the Ell pond water chestnut purchase order if it can't be paid with the state earmark funds. This item will need to be re-addressed if these two invoices can't be paid from the \$27,500 purchase order line item.

Motion by Mr. Sloan to pay both invoices via the pond treatment purchase order. Seconded by Mr. Paiewonsky.

Roll Call vote: Eugenia Gibbons- absent, Jason Jancaitis – yes, Paul Moore – yes, Gwendolyn Orford – yes, Michael Paiewonsky- yes, Chris Redfern –yes, Ryan Sloan- yes.

6-0 in favor.

Continued Public Hearing:

Notice of Intent (217-0214) 36 Slayton Rd – Staff has received a request from Mr. Bell (applicant’s attorney) for a continuance to the February 17 hearing date. Commission members discussed project briefly. Staff will re-send a copy of the last version of the draft special conditions to commission members for review.

Motion by Mr. Paiewonsky to continue this hearing item to the February 17 meeting. Second by Mr. Sloan.

Roll Call vote: Eugenia Gibbons- absent, Jason Jancaitis – yes, Paul Moore – yes, Gwendolyn Orford – yes, Michael Paiewonsky- yes, Chris Redfern – yes, Ryan Sloan- yes.
6-0 in favor.

Discussion:

Ell pond park draft plan-

Staff and Mr. Moore are on the Ell pond working group, a draft plan was prepared recently and the working group is gathering feedback. Commission members reviewed the updated plan and noted some changes. Parking lot has two separate entrances shown on the parking loop. Smaller natural turf field on far end of west knoll field, 2 fields proposed to be synthetic turf (the larger field on the west knoll and the cabbage patch field). Preliminary cost estimate was around \$500,000. Wetland improvement area plan discussed. Bio-swales or other BMPs were suggested for the parking area to improve run-off water quality. The parking area is a large cost area, so this is something that should be addressed by the working group.

The pond edge trail surface material was discussed. Pervious pavement was specified in plan, questions on how this will be adequately maintained. It was noted that it becomes normal impervious pavement very quickly without adequate maintenance. Stone dust or other possible materials or trail profile discussed.

Staff sent a comment sheet to members for additional feedback for the Ell pond working group.

FY23 Budget and earmark questions-

Staff is waiting for update from the City Auditor’s office on a technical question for the budget. Staff has requested a multi-year (3 years) contract with the pond treatment vendor to use for the earmark funds request.

FY 2022 ends in June, the pond treatment work always spans between two fiscal years. The water Chestnut treatment will occur in July which is FY2023 technically.

Trail Stewards program-

Staff has gotten a few new trail steward signups recently. Two new trail reports received with comments that staff passed along to the Commission.

Eagle Scout project – Staff stated that the Hillside park trail project and Flagg Acres kiosk repairs project is almost complete. The Eagle Scout candidate has stated that he only has a few items remaining (trail marker sign install for Hillside park and put new materials in the Flagg Acres kiosk).

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be February 17, 2022 at 7:30 PM.

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

Adjourn

8:55PM 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.