



CITY OF MELROSE

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

City Hall, 562 Main Street
Melrose, Massachusetts 02176
Telephone - (781) 979-4312
Fax - (781) 979-4290

Melrose Conservation Commission Minutes for April 28, 2022

Present: Gwendolyn Orford, Jason Jancaitis, Michael Paiewonsky, Paul Moore and Ryan Sloan*arrived at time indicated

Absent: Eugenia Gibbons

Staff present: Eric Devlin

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

Staff Stated that Chris Redfern has recently moved to another town and had resigned from the Conservation Commission and the Commission will be looking for a new member and two associate members.

Minutes-

March 17, 2022 meeting minutes reviewed for approval.

**Motion by Mr. Paiewonsky to approve the March 17, 2022 minutes, as written.
Second by Mr. Jancaitis.**

Roll Call vote: Eugenia Gibbons- absent, Jason Jancaitis – yes, Paul Moore – yes, Gwendolyn Orford – abstain, Michael Paiewonsky- yes, Ryan Sloan- absent.
3-0 in favor, Ms. Orford abstained.

Invoices

MACC E-handbook – 2 members at \$15 each.

Solitude Lake Management Task 1 – Permitting for Ell, Towners and Swains ponds.

Motion by Mr. Paiewonsky to approve the invoices for the two MACC handbooks and the Solitude Lake Management task 1. Second by Ms. Orford.

Roll Call vote: Eugenia Gibbons- absent, Jason Jancaitis – yes, Paul Moore – yes, Gwendolyn Orford – yes, Michael Paiewonsky- yes, Ryan Sloan- absent.
4-0 in favor.

Public Hearing:

Notice of Intent (217-0218) –49,51,53 Melrose Street Melrose Towers, submitted by Melrose Towers Condominium Trust - Peter Ogren of Hayes Engineering was present to represent the applicant. Mr. Ogren described the site and existing conditions. Would

notify commission when proposed work starts. The existing pavement is cracked and peeled, still in serviceable condition. Small grade change proposed on building 51, milling and replace pavement. The existing garage is higher than the pavement and the flood plain and pavement surface.

Mr. Paiewonsky shared his screen. (MassMapper GIS map and area flood map).

Mr. Sloan* arrived at this point.

Mr. Paiewonsky – Massmapper lists Ell pond as impaired waters according to EPA data. The phosphorus levels at Ell pond are very difficult to address, this site is very close to the pond with almost 100% impervious surface area and likely discharges stormwater to Ell pond. The City has just spent funds on a treatment program to address invasive vegetation growth at the pond and the Commission needs to make every effort possible to improve water quality at the pond. This site should have some component to improve water quality as well. Does an Operation & Maintenance plan exist for this site?

Mr. Ogren- This building was built in approximately 1972, they hadn't started doing stormwater treatment operation and management plans for these sites yet. Expect owner would be able to create one. Unlikely that the site has deep sump catch basins currently. site owners willing to do catch basin cleaning as part of this project.

Mr. Paiewonsky- Sand is worse than salt in parking lots, minimize sand use.

Mr. Ogren – Would like to request a continuance to the next meeting to create an operation and management plan.

Mr. Moore- Clarification question on the locations and function of the approx.. 700 linear feet of berms that would be removed and replaced during the repaving in the NOI narrative.

Mr. Ogren- All berms will go back to their original locations after repaving is completed. Some of the berms are to define parking areas, some are to convey stormwater to drains. Trees and plantings in existing berms will be preserved.

Abrupt lip on parking garage on building 51. Intend to flatten out this lip. Apron proposed around the garage entrance.

Motion to continue to the May 19 meeting date by Mr. Paiewonsky. Second by Mr. Moore.

Roll Call vote: Eugenia Gibbons- absent, Jason Jancitis – yes, Paul Moore – yes, Gwendolyn Orford – yes, Michael Paiewonsky- yes, Ryan Sloan- yes.
5-0 in favor

Discussion:

Flagg Acres Melrose Cleanup day with Keep Melrose Beautiful

The cleanup event took place on Saturday, April 23. Several Commission members attended and indicated that there was a great turnout. Mr. Sloan suggested that the Commission give Keep Melrose Beautiful some trail maps for distribution at the table at the next cleanup.

Some large metal debris was removed from along swains pond ave and staff will coordinate with the Melrose DPW for pickup.

Mr. Sloan indicated that 1 of the two picnic tables near Towners pond at Flagg Acres appeared to have been damaged/vandalized at some point in the past. This table will either need to be repaired or removed. Staff will check to see which department owns/installed the tables.

Healthy Melrose Fair – Saturday, May 7, 2022 10:00-1:30 PM – (Rain Date Sunday May 15, 2022 10-1:30 PM)-table shift volunteers

Staff will prepare a signup sheet with 3 1.5 hour shifts and circulate among the commission members. Staff will drop off materials with first shift volunteer.

Water Chestnut treatment will likely be a topic of discussion at the fair. Staff will try to get some photos of the treatment at Ell pond when it is happening. July 11th tentative treatment start date has been scheduled with the treatment vendor. Finn McSweeney stated that he will coordinate a Water Chestnut hand pulling follow-up event immediately after the harvester/hydrorake treatment takes place. Staff will coordinate the treatment dates and provide updates if there are any changes.

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be May 19, 2022 at 7:30 PM.

Motion by Mr. Paiewonsky to adjourn. Ms. Orford seconded the motion and it was voted 5-0 in favor.

Adjourn
8:49PM 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.
--