



CITY OF MELROSE

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

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Melrose Conservation Commission Minutes for June 16, 2022

Present: Eugenia Gibbons, Jason Jancaitis, Paul Moore, Gwendolyn Orford, Michael Paiewonsky

Absent: Ryan Sloan

Staff present: Eric Devlin

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

Minutes

May 18, 2022 meeting minutes reviewed for approval.

Motion by Mr. Paiewonsky to approve the May 18, 2022 minutes, as written. Second by Ms. Orford.

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

Mr. Paiewonsky prepared a news article about the upcoming Ell pond water chestnut treatment to be submitted to the Melrose Weekly News.

Public Hearing:

Notice of Intent Swains pond Ave culvert repair (217-0219)

Jason Coy and Vonnice Reis, Melrose DPW engineering division were present. Mr. Coy explained that the project work has already been performed under an emergency certificate. The work was initially intended to be a spot repair of the existing culvert but, DPW work crews discovered that a sinkhole had formed in the roadway while they were attempting to do the spot repair and the work crew was not prepared to do a full reconstruction of the culvert at that time. Temporary road plates and cones were put over the hole and DPW contacted Conservation staff to discuss options to get the area stabilized and install erosion controls at the inlet and outlet sides.

DPW received an emergency certificate from the Commission to do the repair work and the culvert was replaced with 15" PVC pipe from the inlet approximately 15 feet from the outlet on March 31. The outlet had some existing reinforced concrete pipe, in good condition, that DPW was able to connect the PVC pipe to and not disturb the outlet headwall. On April 15th, The roadway was repaved and riprap was placed around the headwall to stabilize the slope (6"-10"stone).

Trash rack installed on the inlet side that DPW will be responsible for clearing.

Erosion controls still in place, seed mix still needs to be applied to stabilize. Ms. Reis sent staff a photo of a potential grass seed mix that is available now. Staff approved it for immediate seeding to stabilize the slope (mix of 4 types of fine fescue grass seeds). DPW shall obtain appropriate wetland seed mix and overseed the area in the fall to add appropriate plants for the conditions and species diversity. This will be added to the Order of Conditions as a special condition.

Motion by Mr. Paiewonsky to issue an after-the-fact Order of Conditions for the swains pond ave culvert replacement work. Second by Mr. Moore.

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

Notice of Intent 207 Laurel Street DPW drain repair

Vonnie Reis, Melrose DPW engineering division was present.

Ms. Reis described the project as replacement of an existing drainage pipe through private property with agreement of that owner. 100 foot buffer zone wetland boundary established. Elena Proakis Ellis of DPW conducted a wetland delineation this week in response to DEP technical comment. 6 soil borings were collected from the site.

Vegetation observed included swamp aster, purple loosestrife, japanese knotweed and 3 willow trees up closer to the house. More sandy soil near the house as well.

Mr. Paiewonsky how DPW became aware of the leaking drain pipe at this property. Ms. Reis- Pipe is an old corrugated metal pipe that the bottom appears to be missing from. Wetland mats to be utilized by DPW for equipment access entirely within the easement area. Memo sent to Commission describing increased impact to wetland following the delineation. The pipe is shallow, visible at the end. Another 40 feet in the buffer zone that would be disturbed by the project, 6-10” of stone to be placed at the headwall to prevent scour.

Historically, the easement area that the drainage pipe crosses was farmed.

Mr. Paiewonsky- The drain pipe is rotted out on the bottom? Repair will allow full volume to reach the stream. Is there any chance this could exacerbate the flooding in this area?

Ms. Reis- New wetland map shown with updated wetland boundary line from the field delineation.

Mr. Moore- Some of the wetland area is currently being maintained as lawn area?

Mr. Paiewonsky- Was this area filled at some point?

Ms. Reis- The area doesn't appear to be fill soils, appeared to be natural soils. GPS and GIS used for location of the drainage ditch on the map. Wetland mats to allow for machine access.

Mr. Jancaitis- 1 week at most for the work duration and restore area to existing grade?

Ms. Reis- No filling, existing grade. July work target and seed in the fall. No spot elevations were taken. MVP grant also being pursued for a separate project.

Public Comment:

John MacDonald, 219 Laurel Street- Comment letter submitted, believed the City has damaged the wetland in this area. Pools of water are a public health hazard and would like the City to dig drainage trenches to drain the water from this area. The ground is saturated. Lilacs and trees in yard are dying, mature trees have toppled over. Would like the Commission to get coordinated response from the Mayor's office.

Ms. Reis – The Melrose Health department can help with mosquito control.

Discussion amongst commission members about some potential special conditions requiring a full wetland delineation after the project is completed. Easement is on private

property and the City only has permission to enter the property for maintenance of the pipe.

Motion by Mr. Paiewonsky to close the public hearing for 207 Laurel Street and issue a standard Order of Conditions for the 207 Laurel Street DPW drain repair work. Second by Mr. Jancaitis seconded.

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

Request for Determination of Applicability –Sewell Woods Rd to Dyder Rd gas extension – Julia Squillace of Tighe and Bond was present on behalf of the applicant, Boston Gas company. Ms. Squillace described the project as approximately 600 linear feet of gas main upgrade and replacement. Existing low pressure gas main will be purged and abandoned in place. Erosion control that will be used include straw bales and silt sacks in catch basins. 115 linear feet of the proposed gas main extension is within 100 feet buffer zone of Isolated Vegetated Wetland and a certified vernal pool. Work proposed to begin at the end of June/July and will take a few months to complete.

Motion by Mr. Paiewonsky to close the public hearing for the Sewell Woods Rd gas extension and issue a Negative 3 Determination of Applicability. Second by Mr. Moore seconded.

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

Notice of Intent (217-0218) –49,51,53 Melrose Street Melrose Towers, submitted by Melrose Towers Condominium Trust - Peter Ogren of Hayes Engineering and Donna Ambrose (property manager) were present to represent the applicant. Mr. Ogren submitted a letter to the Commission that described how the project complies with the Massachusetts Stormwater Regulations. Mr. Jancaitis – 80% T.S.S removal by the system? Mr. Ogren- They have done what is practical. Work was completed recently rained on June 9 that prevented work earlier. Catchbasin #7(CB #7) has a poured concrete box at the flow line of the pipe. CB #5 has barrel block construction and appeared to still be in good condition with a corrugated pipe. Those are the only 2 catch basins that we couldn't add gas traps to. PVC gas traps added on the outflow to all other catch basins. CB #8 and CB #9 to be replaced with a single deep sump catch basin.

Clamshell cleaned catch basins 1.5 months earlier. 1.5' of sediment was removed with the vacuum truck yesterday (June 15,2022). Maintenance report says to use vacuum truck for future cleaning.

Mr.Paiewonsky –Special condition requiring maintenance by vacuum truck twice a year.
Ms. Orford- CB#5 pipe to be replaced as well?
Mr. Ogren – CB #2 to be rebuilt, CB #3 is structurally sound. 33 feet of new pipe estimated to be required.
Ms. Ambrose expressed concern over total project cost to include pipe.

Mr. Ogren- No depth to add these structures in some spots, would make it financially unfeasible.

Motion by Mr. Paiewonsky to close the public hearing for 49,51,53 Melrose Street Melrose Towers and issue an Order of Conditions with special conditions. Ms. Orford seconded.

Roll Call vote: Eugenia Gibbons- abstain, Jason Jancaitis – no, Paul Moore – yes, Gwendolyn Orford – yes, Michael Paiewonsky- yes, Ryan Sloan- absent.
3-1 in favor. Ms. Gibbons abstained (was not part of quorum for this project)
Mr. Jancaitis was opposed.

Discussion:

Certificate of Compliance – 1 Indian Hill Lane (DEP#217-191)

Dale Cibene was present. Staff described that this property was recently sold and the new owners were looking to close out the open Order of Conditions on the property. A site visit was conducted by staff that showed that the original work appears to have been completed and the enclosed porch was recently removed with only the deck, footings and posts that were approved under this Order of Conditions remaining. Photos from site visit shared with note about some concrete debris that was present in the nearby stream that must be removed. There is a separate item with the MA Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) on this site that is still open regarding some plantings in the wetland buffer zone that the owner was instructed to follow up with the DEP contact on.

Motion by Mr. Paiewonsky to issue a Certificate of Compliance for 1 Indian Hill Lane with ongoing conditions and requirement to remove all debris from site. Ms. Gibbons seconded.

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

Certificate of Compliance - 401 Porter Street (DEP#217-195)

Peter DiRaffaele, homeowner was present. Staff visited the site and compared the as-built plans to the approved plans. The pervious paver patio area is larger than the approved patio area and the addition was slightly smaller than what was approved 9'x12' instead of the approved 10'x12'. Staff described the pervious paver patio was approx. 1.5 times larger than what was approved and a different shape. Staff noted that it was still outside of the no construction zone and the no disturb zones and within lawn area. Mr. DiRaffaele- Home renovation and landscaping was done where new grass was installed and replaced the previously existing brick patio that was laid in sand. At the time of the request, plan was to have it be smaller with only enough room for a grill and a couple of chairs. Decided to make it the same size as it had previously been.

Motion by Mr. Paiewonsky to issue a Certificate of Compliance for 401 Porter Street with ongoing conditions. Ms. Orford seconded.

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

5-0 in favor.

Mr. Moore located the Melrose Wetlands Ordinance reference that authorizes access through private property chapter 231 section 14 paragraph [C.](#)

The Commission, its agents, officers, and employees shall have authority to enter upon privately owned land for the purpose of performing their duties under this chapter and may make or cause to be made such examinations, surveys, or sampling as the Commission deems necessary, subject to the constitutions and laws of the United States and the commonwealth.

Planning board meeting on Summit Ave subdivision-

Staff shared the meeting date for the planning board meeting on the Summit Ave subdivision project. The previous owner of this property illegally cut down several trees on the abutting conservation land in 2019. The previous owner agreed to plant three replacement trees on the abutting conservation land and the Commission members agreed to water the newly planted trees for 1 year after planting to ensure that they had the best chance of surviving.

1 member is planning on attending the planning board meeting and a comment letter is being prepared to outline the concerns from the Commission.

A brief discussion followed regarding the next meeting date, several members may not be able to make the July 21 meeting. July 14 was suggested as an alternative meeting date that more members stated they would be able to attend.

The next scheduled meeting will be July 21, 2022 at 7:30 PM, with a meeting alternative date proposed for July 14 due to quorum coverage issue on the 21st.

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

Adjourn

9:39PM 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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