



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 September 15, 2022

Present: Jason Jancaitis, Michael Paiewonsky, Forrest Tiedeman, Ryan Sloan and Craig Molway(*awaiting City Council approval)

Absent: Paul Moore and Eugenia Gibbons

Staff present: Eric Devlin

Mr. Paiewonsky opened the remote public meeting at 7:35pm. All members participated remotely.

Minutes

August 04, 2022 meeting minutes reviewed for approval.

**Motion by Mr. Paiewonsky to approve the August 04, 2022 minutes, as written.
Second by Mr. Tiedeman.**

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

Invoices

Solitude Lake Management - Option 8: Perform treatment at Towners Pond for pondweed/algae on 7/28/22. (\$1,955.00)

Solitude Lake Management -water chestnut harvester treatment – 13 days. (\$29,500.00)

Victorian Fair table – (\$270)

MSMCP annual membership – (\$20)

MACC E-Handbook subscriptions (2) - \$30

List of invoices was discussed, staff confirmed that the ponds invoices matches the contract amounts. Harvester invoice to be paid out of the state earmark funds and the free cash appointment from city council. Mr. Paiewonsky suggested we thank state rep. for securing this and ask if they could potentially do it again to help secure funding for it for the remainder of the treatment.

Mr. Sloan asked if the pond management company gave any feedback on treatment so far or suggestions for adjustments. Full funding for year 2, we should have wiggle room to adjust things to make it finalized.

Staff noted that the treatment didn't cover the total pond area that we had hoped for, pond company had suggested possibly two machines to work on it. Mr. Paiewonsky will work on pursuing additional funding for the pond treatment.

City budget process starts in January and invasive species management on upland areas is perhaps another item that needs to be included in the budgeting process.

**Motion by Mr. Paiewonsky to approve all 5 Invoices for payment.
Second by Mr. Tiedeman.**

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

Public Hearing:

Notice of Intent(217-0221) – 910 Main Street Transformer pad- Submitted by Melrose Housing Authority

Limhuot Tiv, engineer from GCG Associates was present on behalf of the Melrose Housing Authority.

Mr. Tiv shared a copy of the plan. Surveyed area for the plan and noted existing structures in the flood plain. The project intends to raise up the area around the existing transformer and pad by 6”, removing it from the floodplain. Approx. 4.4 cubic yards of flood storage impacted and a compensatory flood storage area proposed on the area indicated on the plan. Compensatory storage area is an existing area at elevation 50-graded to elevation 49.8 on plan. Same elevations as the impacted area.

Existing line of trees near the proposed compensatory storage area, special condition suggested to add protection for these trees. No trees to be cut.

Mr. Jancaitis -The proposed new transformer pad is larger than the existing pad or just raising it up?

Mr. Tiv – yes new pad is slightly larger than the existing one.

Mr. Sloan – Has the existing transformer equipment reached the end of service life that would need to be replaced anyway?

Mr. Tiv – Yes, makes sense to do the pad changes now.

Motion by Mr. Paiewonsky to issue a standard Order of Conditions with special condition for tree protection. Second by Mr. Sloan.

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

Discussion:

2022 Melrose Victorian Fair table Sunday, September 11, 2022 11:00-4 PM

Comments from members about the event. Table on the side street location had lower traffic this year than in previous years. Some new debris on the trails reported to the members (a bathtub and some golf cart wreckage). Some questions from public about why we didn’t get all of the water chestnut this year.

Alex Harriott Eagle Scout project- Flagg Acres/Mt. Hood trails update

Craig Molway- Some trails appear to have been closed off recently, need to check area more closely to see if other improvements were made yet. Craig was waiting to hear back from him. Not sure if it was from this project or something else.

Ell pond Water chestnut and other ponds – year one of the treatment contract was completed, some issues that were encountered were low water depth that created access

issue when the equipment was delivered, heavy secondary aquatic plant growth (coontail) that filled the machine hopper more quickly and a smaller capacity machine that needed frequent unload stops. 13 days with the aquatic harvester machine were utilized, the two days with the hydrorake machine and the one day of hand pulling were converted over to the additional days with the harvester since more material would be able to be removed with this machine in that timeframe.

Some potential funding sources were discussed, Lakes and Ponds grant program (Planning dept. has done lots of past grant work that may be able to help). State rep office should be contacted as well. In previous years the commission always tried to restrict treatments to within our existing budget. We are getting feedback from residents requesting more action
Federal fiscal year years starts in October.

Access point improvements could be something to look into, look into adjacent towns that might be able to work together with us on treatment.

Discussed possibility of acquiring a mechanical harvester machine for the City itself, maybe some shared equipment agreement with some other municipalities that could be worked out. Staff has talked to other surrounding towns and cities and they don't have any water chestnut issues at the moment.

Mr. Paiewonsky requested a standing agenda item for future meetings for pond management. This item will cover larger issue of managing the ponds: pursuing funding, pond issues and related items to be broken up into smaller pieces and spread out over several commission members. Staff will prepare some bullet points to aid with working on this.

Potential land donation – Three parcels on the Melrose/malden line have been offered to conservation. There are some issues with the property including a complicated title chain. The three parcels are currently isolated from existing conservation land by one privately owned parcel in each direction.

Members suggested that staff request that the City Solicitor give an estimate on a title search for the parcels and work up a contract with the donor for the City to reimburse the cost of the title search once the property had been transferred to the City.

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be October 20, 2022 at 7:30 PM.

Motion by Mr. Paiewonsky to adjourn. Mr. Tiedeman seconded the motion and it was voted 4-0 in favor.

Adjourn
8:30PM 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.