



CITY OF MELROSE

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

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Melrose Conservation Commission Minutes for January 19, 2023

Present: Jason Jancaitis, Michael Paiewonsky, Forrest Tiedeman, Emily Anderson, Craig Molway, Paul Moore and Charles McCabe*(awaiting city council approval)

Absent:

Staff present: Eric Devlin

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

Minutes

December 15, 2022 meeting minutes reviewed for approval.

**Motion by Mr. Paiewonsky to approve the December 15, 2022 minutes, as written.
Second by Mr. Molway.**

Roll Call vote: Emily Anderson - yes, Jason Jancaitis – yes, Craig Molway- yes, Paul Moore – yes, Michael Paiewonsky- yes, Forrest Tiedeman – yes.
6-0 in favor

Invoice:

3 invoices from Solitude Lake Management (Post treatment survey, year end report and Ell pond Algae treatment) were discussed by the commission members. Staff explained that the vendor had issued the City a \$977.50 credit and applied it to the third invoice (the Ell pond Algae treatment). Staff had requested that the credit be applied to all three invoices, effectively leaving only one invoice to pay. Discussion followed over whether to wait for the updated single invoice or pay the three invoices as is, the net total would be the same.

Motion by Mr. Tiedeman to approve the original 2 invoices (Post treatment Survey-\$675.00 and Year End Report-\$275.00) and the revised 3rd invoice (Ell Pond Algae treatment-\$397.50). Second by Mr. Paiewonsky.

Roll Call vote: Emily Anderson - yes, Jason Jancaitis – yes, Craig Molway- yes, Paul Moore – yes, Michael Paiewonsky- yes, Forrest Tiedeman – yes.
6-0 in favor

Discussion:

4 Clover Circle Administrative Approval letter –staff stated that the homeowner at 4 clover circle had reported that a large tree had fallen in the wetland on his property during

the high winds at the end of December. The large tree took down two smaller trees nearby and would need to be removed. The homeowner had contacted the Melrose DPW about the issue and was informed that it wasn't conservation land or wetlands and that they could be removed. No wetland resource areas were shown on the City GIS system. Staff located a copy of the wetland delineation for that property when it was built and had the City GIS map updated to show the wetland resources present. Staff spoke with the homeowner, explained where the wetland resources are located and how to contact the conservation commission in future instances. Staff looked at the cut trees and marked out the approximate locations on a plot plan with the homeowner and issued an administrative approval to document the work and that the stumps shall remain for soil stabilization. Staff also spoke with the DPW.

Pond Management – funding, pond issues and related items-

Staff stated that another pond treatment company (Water and Wetland) had submitted a treatment quote for Towners and Swains ponds. Since the Commission currently has a 3 year contract with Solitude Lake Management for Ell pond, staff didn't request a quote for any Ell pond treatment. Water and Wetland cited several surrounding towns and cities as some of their recent work examples.

Mr. Moore suggested staff contact some of the surrounding towns to inquire about how things went with their treatments. Also request apples to apples cost estimate for comparison.

Staff stated that there hadn't been much progress on identifying any likely grants that would apply to invasive treatment only. Mr. Molway volunteered to work on looking for possible grants. Mr. Paiewonsky had previously contacted the state senator's office about seeking a state earmark.

Timing for work in connection with the Ell Pond Park project will need to be coordinated with the water chestnut control work during the summer months.

Budget discussion -City filing fees should be reviewed. Ms. Anderson recalled that the City of Boston has a robust filing fee schedule. Developers estimate the construction cost of their project and various fee tiers based on that construction cost were discussed. Mr. McCabe mentioned that some places outside of Massachusetts charge a park improvement fee and capital improvement fee on new construction and housing developments.

2023 Meeting schedule—second Thursday of April, April 13th is the only deviation from the regular third Thursday monthly meeting schedule.

DPW Ell pond Park Earmark— Staff informed the Commissioners that the City had received a \$1,000,000 federal earmark for stormwater management and climate resiliency work around Ell Pond. The whole project will need to file for review by the Commission since the entire site is either in or within close proximity to wetland resource areas.

Annual Election of Officers—Staff stated that the Commission needs to hold an election of officers by March each year. Chair, Vice Chair, Clerk and Treasurer are the roles that will need nominations. The treasurer role is currently unfilled.

Mr. Paiewonsky is willing to continue as Chair.

Mr. Moore is willing to continue as Vice Chair.

Mr. Tiedeman was suggested as a candidate for Treasurer nomination.
Staff is currently the Clerk.
Staff briefly described the responsibilities of the roles.
Chair runs each meeting, ensures the agenda is covered.
Vice Chair, next person able to take over and run the meeting in the event that the chair is unavailable.
The treasurer assists staff with the annual budget preparation and keeps track of the invoices that are spent out over the year.

Potential land donation –Staff contacted the Mayor’s office about a funding source for the title exam that would be required to acquire the three parcels that were previously discussed. The Planning Department has offered to pay for the title exam cost.

Mr. McCabe shared a bit on his background to the other Commission members.

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be February 16, 2023 at 7:30 PM.

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