



CITY OF MELROSE

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

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Melrose Conservation Commission Minutes for March 16, 2023

Present: Forrest Tiedeman, Emily Anderson, Charles McCabe, Craig Molway and Paul Moore*(arrived at point indicated)

Absent: Michael Paiewonsky, Jason Jancaitis

Staff present: Eric Devlin

Sydney Hy and Dorian Rose were both present, Sydney is awaiting appointment to the commission as an associate member and Dorian has indicated interest in becoming an associate member as well.

Mr. Molway was acting chair and opened the remote public meeting at 7:39pm. All members participated remotely.

Minutes

February 16, 2023 meeting minutes reviewed for approval.

Motion by Mr. Molway to approve the February 16, 2023 minutes, as amended.

Second by Mr. Tiedeman.

Roll Call vote: Emily Anderson - yes, Jason Jancaitis – absent, Charles McCabe – yes, Craig Molway – yes, Paul Moore – absent, Michael Paiewonsky- absent, Forrest Tiedeman – yes.

4-0 in favor

Discussion:

Request for extension permit for Pine banks Park Pond – (DEP file #217-0198)

Staff distributed a letter from Solitude Lake Management on behalf of the Pine Banks Park foundation stating that they were seeking an extension for their Order of Conditions DEP file#217-0198. The current Order of Conditions expires on April 12,2023. The original plan or Order of Conditions has been in place for 6 years.

Staff confirmed that their treatment vendor has stated that there are no proposed changes to the annual treatment program and that the applicant had requested a 3 year extension. Discussion among members on how long to extend or if a new Notice of Intent should be filed by the applicant. The original Order of Conditions was granted in 2017 and was previously granted an extension in 2020.

The commission members were expecting an additional member to join the meeting and this item was tabled until later in the meeting.

Spring Trail Cleanup date - Keep Melrose Beautiful Community-wide Cleanup is Saturday, April 15, 9 am - 12 noon

Staff stated that the Commission has been coordinating with Keep Melrose Beautiful for the past few years for the trail cleanup. Staff recalled feedback from the last cleanup event about trails looking fairly good at that time and perhaps some other projects or dates should be explored for other projects. Mr. Molway – The High School has a volunteer page that the Commission could add a listing on as a 4-hour trail work project. It could be a bigger trail workday event. The Commission could also explore getting some trail work projects permitted to have them ready for a volunteer group to implement at some point in the future. a footbridge at Flagg Acres was mentioned as an example project that past volunteer groups have expressed interest in but would require permitting.

Motion by Mr. Molway to keep the April spring trail cleanup date with Keep Melrose Beautiful. Second by Mr. Tiedeman.

Roll Call vote: Emily Anderson - yes, Jason Jancaitis – absent, Charles McCabe – yes, Craig Molway – yes, Paul Moore – absent, Michael Paiewonsky- absent, Forrest Tiedeman – yes.
4-0 in favor

National Grid 366-424 Grove St – Admin approval letter

Staff distributed a utility work notification letter to the Commission members and an administrative approval letter. Staff made note that the project was enlarging the existing 6” cast iron gas line to an 8” plastic gas line. The plan didn’t have any new extension of service into the buffer zone and all work was to take place within the existing roadway. Condition in approval letter to have staff inspection of erosion controls prior to start of work.

1. Notify Conservation office via email 10 days prior to the commencement of the approved work.
2. Erosion & Sedimentation controls shall be installed prior to commencement of work. 72-hour notice prior to work for inspection of Erosion & Sedimentation controls by Conservation Agent.
3. All work shall be conducted within the existing roadway and all trenches shall be closed at the completion of each workday.

*Mr. Moore arrived at this point.

2023-204 Pond Contracts discussion

Revised contract from current pond treatment vendor, Solitude Lake Management received just prior to the meeting. À la carte pricing from another pond treatment vendor, Water and Wetland was discussed.

Discussion followed over merits of trying another vendor over keeping the current treatment vendor, past issues of slow responses from current treatment vendor. Staff to request revised contract from Solitude for just Ell pond treatments. Staff to request formal contract from Water and Wetland for Swains and Towners pond treatment.

Motion by Mr. Tiedeman to authorize staff to get formal contracts from both

vendors. Mr. Molway seconded the motion and it was voted 5-0 in favor.

Roll Call vote: Emily Anderson - yes, Jason Jancaitis – absent, Charles McCabe – yes, Craig Molway – yes, Paul Moore – yes, Michael Paiewonsky- absent, Forrest Tiedeman – yes.
5-0 in favor

Request for extension permit for Pine banks Park Pond – (DEP file #217-0198)–
Tabled discussion from earlier was resumed. Order of conditions was originally granted in 2017, received a 3-year extension in 2020, expires April 12, 2023. Discussion on whether current treatment plan is working, no reports received by commission to reflect this.

Mr. Moore cited section of the Melrose Wetland Ordinance –
231 section 8C. Expiration. A permit shall expire three years from the date of issuance. Notwithstanding the above, the Commission, in its sole discretion, may issue a permit expiring five years from the date of issuance for recurring or continuous maintenance work, provided that annual notification of time and location of work is given to the Commission. Any permit may, in the Commission's sole discretion, be renewed once for an additional one-year period, provided that a request for a renewal is received in writing by the Commission prior to expiration. Notwithstanding the above, a permit may identify requirements which shall be enforceable for a stated number of years, indefinitely, or until permanent protection is in place and shall apply to all owners, current and future, of the land.

Motion by Mr. Moore to deny the extension request, one extension was already granted under 231 section 8C of the Ordinance. Mr. Molway seconded the motion and it was voted 5-0 to deny the extension request.

Roll Call vote: Emily Anderson - yes, Jason Jancaitis – absent, Charles McCabe – yes, Craig Molway – yes, Paul Moore – yes, Michael Paiewonsky- absent, Forrest Tiedeman – yes.
5-0 in favor

Open space/ Open Space Projects – Staff described a potential vernal pool on the City Conservation land near the Hillside Park trail. Staff also reported that Wakefield conservation was forming their own trail steward program as well. Wakefield Conservation had indicated willingness to coordinate with us between the trail stewards and potentially getting a formal trail network and map on both the West Hill Terrace area and Ferdinand Woods. The West Hill Terrace area is likely simpler to start with since it is only Melrose and Wakefield. Ferdinand Woods is slightly more complicated because it involves a third municipality (Melrose, Stoneham and Wakefield).

Forming a trail subcommittee was discussed as a potential new method to address some of the trail items in the future and coordinate more with the trail stewards.

Vernal pool discussion continued; map shared showing approximate location of the potential vernal pool. Dorian Rose explained that she has an upcoming student project that might be helpful to the commission in getting the potential vernal pool certified. Vernal pool association website shared by Sydney Hy, vernalpool.org. The vernal pool association might have someone that could help certify vernal pools.

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

Motion by Mr. Molway to adjourn. Mr. McCabe seconded the motion and it was voted 5-0 in favor.

Adjourn

9:13PM 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.