



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 May 18, 2023

Present: Forrest Tiedeman, Emily Anderson, Charles McCabe, Craig Molway, Paul Moore, Jason Jancitis, Michael Paiewonsky and associate member Sydney Hy.

Absent:

Staff present: Eric Devlin

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

Minutes

March 16, 2023 meeting minutes reviewed for approval.

May 04, 2023 meeting minutes reviewed for approval.

Motion by Mr. Paiewonsky to approve the March 16, 2023 minutes and May 04, 2023 minutes as written. Second by Mr. Molway.

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

7-0 in favor

Public Hearing:

Notice of Intent- (DEP# 217-0222) Pine Banks Pond Aquatic vegetation program – submitted by Pine Banks Park foundation

Keith Gazaille of Solitude Lake Management was present to represent the applicant. Mr. Gazaille described the current proposed treatment program as an ongoing aquatic vegetation management program over a 3 year period, similar to last treatment program and noted that 2013 was the conclusion of the hydrorake treatment program on pine banks pond. The program goal is to monitor the growth on the pond with intermittent aquatic herbicide treatments to maintain a balance of vegetation growth.

Waterlily growth to be treated with glyphosate (Rodeo/AquaPro). Maximum Pond depth is 6ft, average depth of 3.4ft. Shallow depth is conducive to aquatic plant growth.

Diquat (Tribune) proposed for pondweed treatment.

Fluridone (Sonar) – proposed as contingency treatment option for future years, in the event that other invasive species become present.

Copper algaecides for algae growth, also as a contingency, in the event that there is problematic algae growth on the pond.

Staff suggested 48 hours advance notice for commission prior to any treatment there as a special condition.

Motion by Mr. Paiewonsky to close the public hearing and issue an Order of Conditions for the Pine Banks Pond Aquatic vegetation program with the 48 hours advance notice for commission special condition. Second by Mr. Moore.

Roll Call vote: Emily Anderson - yes, Jason Jancaitis – yes, Charles McCabe – yes, Craig Molway – yes, Paul Moore – yes, Michael Paiewonsky- yes, Forrest Tiedeman – yes.
7-0 in favor

Notice of Intent- (DEP# 217-0223) 110 Sycamore Road - submitted by Anthony and Erin Natale

Anthony and Erin Natale were present. Mr. Natale described the project and stated that FEMA had granted them a Letter of Map Amendment (LOMA) recently that showed that the proposed area of work was outside of the floodplain. A copy of the plan was shared for review. Mr. Paiewonsky briefly explained what a LOMA is for the public and other Commissioners (issued by FEMA and allows the official floodplain maps to be modified, at the request of the property owner, with demonstrated proof that the previous information was not correct in this particular location). The area shown on the plan shows the area that was removed.

103.7 elevation shown on FEMA map from LOMA and project plan showed elevations for the site from surveyor. Surveyor recorded accurate elevations for this property.

Standard special conditions suggested for small projects.

Motion by Mr. Paiewonsky to close the public hearing and issue an Order of Conditions for 110 Sycamore Road with standard special conditions. Second by Mr. McCabe.

Roll Call vote: Emily Anderson - yes, Jason Jancaitis – yes, Charles McCabe – yes, Craig Molway – yes, Paul Moore – yes, Michael Paiewonsky- yes, Forrest Tiedeman – yes.
7-0 in favor

Notice of Intent- (DEP# 217-0224) Ell Pond Brook Culvert - 681-697 Main Street – Submitted by City of Melrose-Engineering

Vonnie Reis, Melrose City Engineer was present to represent the applicant. Ms. Reis described the project. A project to relocate the existing drainage culvert that runs under 681-697 main street (the Caruso Building) to main street. A 60” reinforced concrete pipe within the right of way on main street. The Plan is to construct the new pipe in the dry and existing flow will not need to be bypassed. Once the new pipe is in place, they will cut into the existing pipe to connect the new culvert pipe. Amended narrative submitted to reflect that the existing culvert pipe would be considered bank and land under water resource areas of the existing culverted stream.

The City was granted a MassWorks grant that will be utilized to fund this project and the City is working with the developer and designer. About 1 month to submit works for

bids.

The old culvert is not going to be removed as part of this project, to be abandoned in place. The developer may remove the abandoned pipe when they go to do the foundation for the building, not part of this project. The goal is to eliminate the drainage easement through this property. Dewatering equipment will consist of dirt bag or some similar filter system for construction.

The City will bid the project and manage the contractor. Finalized documents to come later.

49.9 flood elevation from City Letter of Map Revision that was issued by FEMA in 2018.

Standard special conditions with advanced notice of work start and dewatering devices information.

Motion by Mr. Paiewonsky to close the public hearing and issue an Order of Conditions for Ell Pond Brook Culvert - 681-697 Main Street with standard special conditions. Second by Mr. Tiedeman.

Roll Call vote: Emily Anderson - yes, Jason Jancaitis – yes, Charles McCabe – yes, Craig Molway – yes, Paul Moore – yes, Michael Paiewonsky- yes, Forrest Tiedeman – yes.
7-0 in favor

Discussion:

Certificate of Compliance - (DEPFile# 217-0198) Pine Banks Pond Aquatic vegetation program

Staff described that the applicant had also submitted a request for a Certificate of Compliance for the past treatment program. Staff visited the site and stated that the pond seemed to be in good condition. No areas appeared to be outside of the previously approved work.

Motion by Mr. Paiewonsky to issue a Certificate of Compliance for Pine Banks Pond DEPFile#217-0198. Second by Mr. Molway.

Roll Call vote: Emily Anderson - yes, Jason Jancaitis – yes, Charles McCabe – yes, Craig Molway – yes, Paul Moore – yes, Michael Paiewonsky- yes, Forrest Tiedeman – yes.
7-0 in favor

Boys and Girls club – Ell pond Kayak/canoe- John Brinkman was present from the Boys and Girls Club to discuss a kayak/canoe program on Ell pond. They have operated Wakefield community boating in Wakefield on Lake Quannapowitt over the past several years. The goal of the program is to provide an affordable family entity that helps bring attention to the pond.

The proposed entry and exit point is right near the dog park with the program to start on weekends only (Saturday and Sunday) with 8 Kayaks at most (4 singles, 4 doubles).

Kayaks to be stored vertically on a portable rack structure in the area near the purple dragon sculpture. Anticipated program start for the week of July, 04.

Public Comment period rules for the Conservation Commission –

Mr. Paiewonsky explained the background for this particular agenda item. Some draft policy items were provided by the City Solicitor's office for Commission review. Questions regarding whether comment period should be at the start of the meeting or the end of the meeting were raised. Total time or time limit per speaker will need to be adjusted. Question raised on potential for more speakers than the total time allowance specified, how to pick who is able to speak on the subject. Mr. Moore will draft some changes and this item will be discussed at the next meeting. After the next discussion, the revised policy will be sent to Solicitor's office for review. Draft Public comment period stated public comment period to be shown on the agenda, 3 minutes per speaker. Public comments should be open to any item related to conservation not restricted to the agenda. Rules for the Comment period will be posted on the City website, will need to be confirmed by the City Solicitor.

Public comment period will be listed on the agenda in the policy. Can be placed at the beginning or end depending on where it was placed on the agenda.

Spring Trail Cleanup with Keep Melrose Beautiful Community-wide Cleanup – comments/feedback

School vacation week was not the best timing for the trail cleanup date. Trails looked great with substantial improvement over the years since the start of the trail steward program and the spring /fall trail cleanups.

Vernal pool

Trail Steward Matt Lewis and potential associate Commissioner Dorian Rose both briefly discussed the progress/results of the vernal pool identification effort this spring. Ms. Rose had an AudioMoth (acoustic logger device) that needs to be reviewed to see if there is any usable evidence for one of the vernal pools on the Hillside Park property that were being looked at. The Certification process can take a while.

Mr. Lewis reported that he had submitted the required evidence to the Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program earlier and is waiting to hear back from them on Certification. Wood frog eggs and calls evidence collected and submitted.

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be June 15, 2023 at 7:30 PM.

Motion by Mr. Paiewonsky to adjourn. Mr. Molway seconded the motion and it was voted 7-0 in favor.

Adjourn

9:06 PM 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.