



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 August 17, 2023

Present: Charles McCabe, Craig Molway, Paul Moore, Forrest Tiedeman, Emily Anderson, Michael Paiewonsky and Jason Jancitis. Associate members Sydney Hy and Dorian Rose were also present.

Absent:

Staff present: Eric Devlin

Mr. Paiewonsky opened the remote public meeting at 7:31pm. All members participated remotely.

Minutes

July 20, 2023 meeting minutes reviewed for approval.

Motion by Mr. Paiewonsky to approve the July 20, 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

Invoices:

Staff provided copies of two new invoices from the contracted pond treatment vendors (Water & Wetland and Solitude Lake Management) for review and an invoice for the Commission's half of the shared Victorian Fair table space with the Friends of the Middlesex Fells. A combined roll call vote was taken for simplicity with the intention for three separate motions to approve all invoices. Three separate motions are shown below to clarify this intention.

Water & Wetland, LLC – 2023 Towners Pond Water Lily Treatment – Glyphosate herbicide) - \$1650.00

Motion by Mr. Paiewonsky to approve payment of the Water & Wetland, LLC – 2023 Towners Pond Water Lily Treatment – Glyphosate herbicide) - \$1650.00. 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

Solitude Lake Management – Ell Pond FY24 (Summer 2023 Water chestnut mechanical harvesting and Hydro-raking)- \$30,975.00

Motion by Mr. Paiewonsky to approve payment of the Solitude Lake Management – Ell Pond FY24 (Summer 2023 Water chestnut mechanical harvesting and Hydro-raking)- \$30,975.00. 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

Melrose Victorian Fair Shared table with the Friends of the Middlesex Fells – \$57.50

Motion by Mr. Paiewonsky to approve payment of the Melrose Victorian Fair Shared table with the Friends of the Middlesex Fells – \$57.50. 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

Discussion:

2023 Victorian Fair table-

The Melrose Victorian Fair is scheduled for Sunday, September 10. 1-1/2-hour table shifts with half hour overlap between shift to ensure adequate coverage. Staff will prepare a shift signup sheet to circulate. 5 shifts scheduled 11-12:30, 12:1:30, 1-2:30, 3-3:30 and 3-4. Staff will coordinate with the first shift volunteer for table materials.

Florence Ave Conservation Land-

Staff visited this property after a resident tree complaint. This property will be added to the dumping hotspot list, staff observed numerous areas of dumped yard wastes and debris all over the site. Only access is off the end of Florence Ave or Birch Hill Road paper street. Mr. Molway suggested adding a no dumping sign to the end of Florence street and the other side of the paper street near Birch Hill Rd, something similar to the existing sign on another property off of Birch Hill Rd and Harold street to notify abutters and the general public at the site that dumping is prohibited there and to host a community cleanup event in the fall, potentially a High School community service project. Potentially coordinate the sign installation with the cleanup event.

Mr. Paiewonsky suggested doing an inventory of our conservation parcels. Mr. Tiedeman suggested that it should be an annual program to assess all of our parcels each year to check on for issues. Staff will share a copy of the Conservation land list with the Commission for review-add column for members to sign up for assessment of each parcel, a general assessment of each of the commission parcels may be needed to find other similar incidents and plan to address them on an ongoing basis. Photos of each site/notes, description of any issues observed and if invasive species are present at each

site.

Letter was sent to abutters about no dumping following past cleanup for Vernal pool in Sewall woods. Letter to be sent to abutters following any cleanup event about illegal dumping.

Sustainable Landscaping handbook

Staff received a message from the Wakefield Conservation office about pursuing a MAPC grant for a sustainable landscape handbook. Funded twice through the MAPC grant program in the past. Once for Concord, MA and a second time for Arlington, Winchester and Stoneham. The Arlington, Winchester, Stoneham one was the most recent that included updates to the Concord Sustainable landscaping handbook and a series of community workshops, one in each of the three communities on a section of the handbook.

Online/electronic handbook is published online on the Concord Conservation website, question was raised whether there is a copyright/license that limits use of the handbook by other towns. Staff will speak to one of the other towns to gather additional details on the terms/limitations on use of the handbook. Staff will speak with Wakefield and see what would be required from us to participate and request if someone from the Wakefield conservation would be willing to come to a meeting to discuss it further.

Saugus, Malden, Lynnfield and Reading are surrounding towns that haven't done this either.

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be September 21, 2023 at 7:30 PM.

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

Adjourn

8:20 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.
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