



CITY OF MELROSE

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

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Melrose Conservation Commission Minutes for May 16, 2024

Present: Michael Paiewonsky, Craig Molway, Jason Jancaitis, Forrest Tiedeman, and Paul Moore. Associate member Dorian Rose was also present (arrived after Minutes).

Absent: Charles McCabe and Emily Anderson

Staff present: Ingrid Winkler

Mr. Paiewonsky opened the public meeting at 7:34pm. All members participated in person.

Public Comment: None.

Minutes:

Meeting minutes for the March 21, 2024 meeting reviewed.

Motion made by Mr. Paiewonsky to approve the March 21, 2024 minutes, as written, seconded by Mr. Tiedeman. Vote to approve: 5-0.

Certificate of Compliance Hearing – 77-79 Messenger Court:

John Ogren of Hayes Engineering, Inc. was present. He made a short presentation outlining the deviations between the approved plans and what was built. These changes included: extending the porous pavers section on the driveway instead of using gravel, adding a porous paver walkway from the driveway to the front door, adding concrete pads for two air conditioning units, modifying the configuration of a swale to allow three roof drain connections instead of two, raising the elevation of the foundation by approximately 8 inches due to groundwater, and an overall increase of flood storage compensation volume.

Mr. Ogren answered questions from the members. Mr. Paiewonsky had visited the site prior to the meeting and met with the builder and developer. He had observed the as-built changes and noted that the site is much improved in appearance.

Motion made by Mr. Paiewonsky to approve the Certificate of Compliance for 77-79 Messenger Court, seconded by Mr. Jancaitis. Vote to approve: 6-0.

Order of Conditions Revision – Ell Pond Fountain:

Joan Bell of the Parks Department was present. Ms. Bell reported that funding was

available for improvements at Ell Pond, including installation of a fountain in the pond and Victorian style lamp posts for lighting near the existing gazebo. She said she hopes to spend the money by June 30. She mentioned that according to Joe, her contact at Water and Wetlands, the contractor servicing the ponds at Mount Hood, a new Notice of Intent for the proposed fountain at Ell Pond may not be necessary. There was discussion about what the process of amending the Order of Conditions would entail and it was suggested that perhaps Water and Wetlands could assist in filing the request for amendment. Ms. Bell answered members' questions regarding whether the fountain would affect the mechanical harvesting of chestnuts in the pond (no because the fountain will be seasonal) and whether the light poles near the gazebo would be in the buffer zone (yes but there will be erosion control measures in place for any trenching). Ms. Bell agreed to begin the request for amendment process.

Discussion:

Mr. Paiewonsky shared that the city auditor found a ConCom account with filing fee deposits of around \$26,000 as well as an old account with funds bequeathed to the City of Melrose to be used for the Sewall Woods conservation area. Members suggested and discussed possible uses of these funds, including trail head signs, temporary water area signs and to cover pond maintenance costs. It was also suggested that the City pull a permit for a bridge at Ell Pond to be built when the opportunity arises (i.e., to be ready when a community service project comes up).

Mr. Molway suggested that ConCom members conduct group visits to conservation land throughout the city to familiarize themselves with these properties. Mr. Molway was familiar with a lean-to/dugout along a trail between the Hoover School and Swains Pond that was reported to the Conservation Commission by a trail steward. It appears to be a fort that kids use and nothing to be concerned about. Mr. Molway mentioned an app called TrailCare. This app is free and could be very useful for the trail steward program. Stewards, hikers, even the public, could report issues such as downed trees, trash, invasive species, etc. with photos and exact locations, making the trail steward record-keeping requirements obsolete. Questions arose about how something like that would be run through the city. Mr. Molway will find out more about this app.

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be June 20, 2024 at 7:30 PM.

Motion by Mr. Paiewonsky to adjourn. Seconded by Mr. Jancaitis and it was voted 6-0 in favor.

Adjourn

9:30 PM adjourn

Michael Paiewonsky

Approved

6/20/2024

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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