



CITY OF MELROSE

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

MICHAEL PAIEWONSKY
Chair

City Hall, 562 Main Street
Melrose, Massachusetts 02176
Telephone - (781) 979-4312
Fax - (781) 979-4290

Melrose Conservation Commission Minutes for August 15, 2024

Present: Paul Moore, Jason Jancaitis, Charles McCabe, Craig Molway, and Emily Anderson. Associate member Dorian Rose was also present. (Mr. Jancaitis and Ms. Rose arrived late.)

Absent: Michael Paiewonsky and Forrest Tiedeman

Staff present: Ingrid Winkler

Mr. Moore opened the public meeting at 7:33 pm. All members participated in person.

Public Comment: None.

Review of Minutes:

Conservation Commission members reviewed draft minutes from the June 20, 2024 and July 31, 2024 meetings. A suggestion was made to include language that the OOC for 17 Burnett Street was extended for 1 year per the Wetland Bylaw. Staff made this change to the June 20, 2024 minutes.

Motion made by Mr. Moore to approve meeting minutes from the June 20, 2024 and July 31, 2024 meetings, seconded by Mr. McCabe. Motion approved 4-0.

Discussion:

Bench for Eric:

Parks Department purchased four Victorian-style benches to be placed in the park area along the east side of Ell Pond near the intersection of Main Street and Lebanon Street. The benches will be installed along a walkway between trees and select pruning will open up viewing windows to Ell Pond along the fence. Conservation agent granted an administrative approval to allow for selective pruning of trees and removal of invasive species along the fence to allow for viewing of Ell Pond from the benches as well as removal of poison ivy from the fence for the safety of pedestrians. The Parks Department, DPW, and Mayor Grigoraitis are all in favor of dedicating a bench, plaque, and possibly replacing a tree in that park area in memory of Eric. The Conservation Commission requests that DPW submit a Request for Determination of Applicability (RDA) for pruning and trimming along the shoreline (between fence and pond) if the existing permit for Ell Pond does not cover such activities. Staff will check into this.

Pond Maintenance updates:

A contract with Water & Wetland for the maintenance of Ell Pond, Swains Pond and Towners Pond was signed in amount of \$4400 which includes surveys and water sampling at all three ponds as well as treatment of Towners Pond for waterlilies (with AquaPro or glyphosate equivalent). Imazamox (ClearCast) was suggested by Water & Wetland as an effective alternative to the glyphosate treatment since some concerns about glyphosate were raised at the last meeting. The Conservation Commission will investigate imazamox for possible use in future treatments.

MWRA maintenance and repair notification:

MWRA is planning maintenance and repair of sewer lines and manholes along several MWRA sewer sections in Melrose. This work is scheduled to being in Spring 2025 and will include installation of structural liners within the sewer sections and repair of sewer manholes. Some of the work is within the 100-ft Buffer Zone, 200-ft Riverfront Area, and Bordering Land Subject to Flooding associated with Spot Pond Brook. The Conservation Commission has reviewed the plans and concurs with MWRA that these activities are exempt from WPA review under 310 CMR 10.02(2)(a).

79 Greenwood Street:

The owner of 79 Greenwood Street requested a delay in appearing before the Conservation Commission to complete cleanup of her property in order to obtain a Certificate of Compliance. Request for Certificate of Compliance will be added to the agenda for the next ConCom meeting.

Ell Pond Volunteer Day:

Mr. McCabe and staff coordinated to host a successful Ell Pond volunteer water chestnut hand-pulling and cleanup event on Sunday, August 11, 2024. Approximately 10 volunteers helped pull water chestnuts from Ell Pond and picked up trash along the shoreline. DPW removed the pile of collected materials.

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be September 19, 2024, at 7:30 PM.

Motion made by Mr. Moore to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Molway. Motion approved 5-0.

Meeting adjourned at 8:04 PM.

Michael Paiswonsky
Approved

September 19, 2024
Date.

Pursuant to the 'Open Meeting Law, M.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.