



CITY OF MELROSE

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

MICHAEL PAIEWONSKY
Chair

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Melrose Conservation Commission Minutes for July 31, 2024

Present: Michael Paiewonsky, Paul Moore, Forrest Tiedeman, Charles McCabe, and Emily Anderson. Associate member Dorian Rose was also present.

Absent: Jason Jancaitis and Craig Molway.

Staff present: Ingrid Winkler

Chairman Paiewonsky opened the public meeting at 7:32 pm. All members participated remotely.

Public Comment: None.

Invoices and Dues:

- Invoice for Ell Pond mechanical harvesting service

Chairman Paiewonsky remarked that treating Ell Pond for invasive water chestnuts over a 3-year contract period with great success was quite an accomplishment for the Commission and the City. Mr. Moore reminded everyone that maintenance will be an on-going task and that hand-pulling of recurring water chestnut plants will be necessary for years to come.

Motion made by Chairman Paiewonsky to pay the invoice for \$32,450 to SOLitude Lake Management for mechanical harvesting of water chestnuts, seconded by Mr. McCabe. Motion approved 5-0.

- Invoice for Massachusetts Association of Conservation Commissions (MACC)

Members discussed the how many E-handbook subscriptions are required and decided to purchase 1 subscription for the Conservation Agent at a cost of \$20.

Motion made by Chairman Paiewonsky to approve the MACC membership fee of \$738 plus additional memberships for the associate commissioner (if not already paid individually) and staff (\$120 or \$60), and one E-handbook subscription for \$20, seconded by Mr. McCabe. Motion approved 5-0.

- Invoice for Massachusetts Society of Municipal Conservation Professionals (MSMCP)

Motion made by Chairman Paiewonsky to approve the MSMCP membership fee of \$20, seconded by Mr. Moore. Motion approved 5-0.

- Proposals for Maintenance of Towners Pond and Swains Pond:

Commission Members expressed overall satisfaction with the services and reporting provided by Water & Wetland in the past year. They reviewed new proposals from Water & Wetland which included surveying and sampling of Towners Pond and Swains Pond and treating Towners Pond for waterlilies.

Associate member Ms. Rose expressed concerns about the use of glyphosate, a substance which is banned in other countries and some states, to treat the waterlilies in Towners Pond. The Commission will investigate other options for future pond management but will consider using glyphosate for treatment this season still.

Motion made by Chairman Paiewonsky to approve the proposal from Water & Wetland for \$5550 to survey, sample and treat Towners and Swains Ponds, seconded by Mr. Tiedeman. Motion approved 5-0.

- Proposals for Maintenance of Ell Pond:

The Commission reviewed proposals from two pond treatment vendors, Water & Wetland and SOLitude Lake Management, and discussed discontinuing services with SOLitude and instead moving forward with Water & Wetland for future maintenance work at Ell Pond.

Mr. Moore suggested approving a certain amount of funding to allow Water & Wetland to conduct an initial survey and sampling of Ell Pond. The commission will then request a final proposal for treatment of Ell Pond based on survey and sampling results.

Motion made by Chairman Paiewonsky to approve a maximum amount of \$1500 for sampling of Ell Pond by Water & Wetland, seconded by Mr. Tiedeman. Motion approved 5-0.

Discussion:

Coordination of Volunteer Days for Ell Pond – Mr. McCabe and Ms. Rose will suggest potential dates for a volunteer cleanup day at Ell Pond to hand-pull remaining water chestnut plants and pick up trash along the shoreline of the lake. Staff will assist with coordinating and publicizing the event.

General Maintenance NOI and routine maintenance for draining channels - DPW filed a NOI for a general maintenance OOC and asked for guidance on abutter notification when seeking a city-wide order and the exact work location is unknown. The Commissioners discussed whether exemptions for maintenance activities may apply. Staff presented photos of a stormwater outfall pipe behind properties on Swains Pond Avenue where discharge from this pipe would normally flow into a swale leading into wetlands on adjacent conservation land and ultimately into Towners Pond; however, silt and debris accumulation near the outfall causes water to pool in that location and has caused some flooding in the past. Concern over potential future flooding prompted homeowners to reach out to DPW and ask for more frequent cleanout and maintenance

of the outfall area. Chairman Paiewonsky is scheduled to meet with City Engineer Vonnie Reis to discuss this further.

Bench in Memory of Eric Devlin – The Commission would like to dedicate a bench in Mr. Devlin’s memory. Mr. Tiedeman will reach out to Mr. Devlin’s family to make sure that his family would approve of such a gesture. Staff will contact the Parks Department to find out about potential locations and coordinate.

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be August 15, 2024, at 7:30 PM.

Motion made by Chairman Paiewonsky to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Tiedeman. Motion approved 5-0.

Meeting adjourned at 8:34 PM.

Michael Paiewonsky
Approved

August 15, 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.