

Melrose Conservation Commission
Minutes for February 16, 2012

Present: Susan Murphy, Joe Nerden, Kate Hickey, Kevin Anderson, Erin Heacock and Richard Doucette

Absent: Steve Locke

Guest:

Ms. Murphy called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM

7:30 PM Continued Public Hearing
39 Swains Pond Ave. (217-0186) in ground pool

Bill Manuell, a wetland scientist from Wetlands and Land Management, was present along with the homeowners, Kate and Perry Calais and their landscape contractor, Catherine Wilkie, ASLA from Horticultural Concepts. Mr. Manuell checked the FEMA flood maps and found the site was not in a Zone A, and Rick Cantone in the Engineering Dept. said the site is not in a floodplain. Mr. Manuell addressed the letter submitted by Mr. Wilder at 29 Swains Pond. The stream that runs behind the property was determined not to be perennial. Mr. Manuell said that the fill up against the fence is on the Calias' side of their fence. At the site visit, it was noted that the toe of slope is at the fence line. Drainage issues were discussed. Members were concerned that the direction of drainage would be altered as a result of this project and the fill would block the flow at the fence to get back to the wetland. Mr. Manuell stated that if that were the case, results would be seen now because of the frozen ground conditions and he feels that drainage must be permeating through the rubble. Mr. Nerden questioned the elevations at completion. Mr. Manuell said the elevation at completion will not be much different than what exists now. He said there will be a two foot concrete apron around the pool and then four feet of landscaping up to the fence. Mr. Anderson said that the plan is not a design plan and there is not enough information on the plan to make a determination. Ms. Murphy said the elevations are hard to determine because they are not looking at existing grades and the Commission has only seen the project after the fill was added. Members decided to concentrate on the wetlands and decided that if drainage becomes an issue in the future, a culvert could be added. Mr. Manuell said that all they plan to do now is move haybales back to edge of disturbance, as requested in DEP comments, install the block wall, seed and mulch

Mr. Doucette moved to close the Public Hearing and issue an Order of Conditions within 21 days. Mr. Anderson seconded the motion, and it was voted unanimously in favor.

Discussion: There was some discussion about requiring a cross section or a more detailed plan with measurements. Mr. Manuell proposed seeding within the 15' no disturb with an appropriate wetlands mix.

Mr. Doucette moved to issue the Order of Conditions with the standard special conditions, as modified, and subject to receiving a detail of the fence area.

7 Cedarwood Lane

Ms. Murphy spoke with the homeowner. They have not done any work to restore the buffer yet. The owners had planned to wait to do the work after the ground was frozen and not ruin the pavers in the driveway. Since there has not been enough of a long freeze, what they may do is pile up the material and take it out slowly.

Signs

Kathy supplied members with a list of sign manufacturers quotes. Sign Here was substantially lower than some of the other companies. Members asked for a proof prior to ordering and would like to see other work completed. Kathy will also find out how much the cost would be including the post.

Minutes

Mr. Nerden moved, seconded by Mr. Anderson, and voted unanimously in favor to approve the minutes of February 2, 2012, as amended.

Adjourn

Mr. Anderson moved to adjourn at 9:00 pm, seconded by Ms. Heacock, and voted unanimously in favor.