

Melrose Conservation Commission

Minutes for January 6, 2011

Present: Susan Murphy, Kate Hickey, Kevin Anderson, Joe Nerden and Richard Doucette (8:10)

Absent: Steve Locke

Staff: Kathy Morgan

The Chairperson called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM

Boy Scout Eagle Project

Taylor Smith from Troop 635 was before the Commission to present his Eagle Project for improvements at Ell Pond. Taylor's outline is attached. Mr. Anderson said he likes the types of native species and his approach to define the path, but feels the logs maybe a hazard. Mr. Nerden said if the logs are too small, they will get thrown into the pond. Taylor suggested inserting rebar through the wood to hold it down. Taylor said that the Parks Dept. will maintain the area, but may not put fresh wood chips down. Taylor said he will look into another material. He plans to start the project in early spring and go through the summer. He would like it to coincide with Ell Pond Day, when volunteers would be available.

Mr. Nerden suggested he get a plan of the area from engineering in a 40" scale where he could show more detail. He also asked how it will be constructed and will the construction disturb the pond. Taylor said the path is 20- 30 feet away from the pond. Ms. Murphy clarified with him that there won't be any digging, just roots being pulled out. Taylor said, yes, they will only be digging holes for plantings. Ms. Murphy said the path is dirt now. Taylor said, yes, but at certain times of the year, it gets so muddy that you have to get off the path. Mr. Dickerson from the Ell Pond Committee has been working with Taylor on the project and advised members, who hadn't been out to the area, that the path is there now and the Parks Dept. maintains it. This project would create a buffer to stop the mowing down to the pond and better define the path with native plantings. He said that he isn't keen on the wood chips either. Ms. Murphy suggested that he keep in mind the view and use low bushes in prime viewing sites that wouldn't need to be cut back.

Ms. Murphy advised Taylor that it seems to be the consensus of the Committee that a formal filing wouldn't be required for what he has proposed, but asked him to keep the Commission informed. Ms. Murphy advised him to remove all dirt and make sure the site is stabilized. Mr. Nerden encouraged him to expand on the project. Mr. Dickerson suggested stepping stones in lieu of wood chips, which the Commission didn't have an issue with. The Commission would like Mr. Dickerson to oversee the project.

Certificate of Compliance

Bay State Road and Damon Ave (217-0173)

Ms. Murphy visited the site with Matt Shuman, from DPW, prior to the snow. She said the work looks great. Even though the neighbors were against the open swale initially, they seem to be okay with it now. They did change out the trash rack. Mr. Anderson noted that a full size plan was not signed and stamped.

Mr. Nerden moved to issue a Certificate of Compliance as the work satisfactorily completed, but hold issuance for a signed and stamped plan from the City Engineer or its designee. Ms. Hickey seconded the motion; and it was voted unanimously in favor.

Minutes

Mr. Nerden moved, seconded by Ms. Hickey, and it was voted unanimously to approve the minutes from December 7, 2010.

61 Clifton Park/Greenwood St. Conservation land

Mr. Cassidy, the homeowner at 61 Clifton Park, was in the process of trying to swap a large piece of his land that abuts conservation land to the Conservation Commission for a small piece of Conservation land that abuts him. Mr. Cassidy has decided not to swap the lands but to donate parcel B2 of his land to Conservation. A revised plan should be received showing the correct wording.

Continued Public Hearing

802 Lynn Fells Parkway (217-0182)

Mr. Heyland, from Alliance Engineering, was present along with the homeowner Mr. Do, and his contractor. Mr. Heyland said that he has not been able to get in touch with the Engineering dept. to confirm the elevation in the area of the site. Mr. Heyland said that the neighbors have all talked about the flood waters reaching the back corner of the house, which is at elevation 79, so he feels that elevation 81 in the front should be conservative/good. They are planning to install an 8 chamber cul tec system to hold the roof runoff. Mr. Doucette asked what the elevation of the bottom of the cul tec system will be. Mr. Heyland said 81. Mr. Anderson said that the cul tec system will also provide a little flood storage. Mr. Doucette noted that the flooding information from the neighbors is consistent with the elevation given. Mr. Seaboyer, 235 Howard St., asked if the back area will be brought down to 79, and Mr. Heyland confirmed. Mr. Seaboyer also spoke of gutter maintenance.

Ms. Murphy said that other areas that were permitted around the area, National Grid Station, Boardman Ave., and Howard St., all used elevation 67, with datum NGVD = 29.4. Members would like confirmation from the engineering office of the datum used (assumed

to be NGVD = 29.4) and to reconcile their thought process of confirming the flood elevation in the area. Mr. Seaboyer said that the National Grid area is 4-5' lower than this area. Mr. Heyland said the observance of the neighbors can be used as proof in this area, even if datum in the area comes in. He said no formal study has been done in this area. After some deliberation, members felt they would like more information from the City Engineer's office. Kathy was asked to get in touch with the City Engineer's office and ask;

- 1) to verify the datum used by City of Melrose
- 2) to verify conversion between City datum and NGVD 29
- 3) to reconcile the City's thought process in their support of the applicant's use of 100 yr. flood elevation of 81.0 '
- 4) Note: recent projects have used – National Grid datum = elev. 67.0, 29.4' conversion factor = 96.4' NGVD 29

Mr. Doucette moved, seconded by Mr. Anderson, and it was voted 3-0-1, Mr. Nerden abstaining, to continue the Public Hearing to January 20, 2011, at 7:30 PM

Public Hearing

Eastside Interceptor relocation/350 Lynn Fells Parkway (217-xxxx)

John Scenna and Charles Serpa from City Engineer's office were present along with Mike Cunningham from SEA Consultants, Inc. Mr. Scenna explained how the sewerage line from Sheffield St. and East St. will be picking up sewage from Melrose Towers and then they intend to intercept at the Middle School and redirect down on Tremont St. Mr. Anderson asked if there will be other phases upstream that MWRA will be looking into? Mr. Scenna didn't think so. Mr. Scenna said, in the spring they readjusted the casting at an upstream manhole at the Towers. They need to relocate this section of pipe for the new turf field to be built at the High School. The relocated piping will be 750' long to the southwest and then connect to the MWRA system. The work will be 80-85' away from the closest wetland. There is organic material below the work, so they will be forming a foundation on piles 7 – 10' down. They will need to do dewatering because the ground water is only 2-3' down at some points. The contractor will decide the method, to develop sumps, well points or deep wells. They are proposing to have a settling tank with baffles to remove TSS prior to discharge. They will need to get a special permit for discharging. Sea Consulting will review and approve the contractor's plans. These changes will most likely improve the upstream flow because they are connecting at a deeper, downstream location. The last step will be to abandon the old piping in place which will require plugging the ends of the pipe. Flow from two homes on Union St. will be redirected to a new small prefabricated pump station.

Mr. Cunningham said there will be no changes in elevations, manholes will stay at the current grades, and there will be no increase in impervious surface. Silt fence will be installed at the limit of work. Work is to start early to mid March and end by April 2011.

Mr. Nerden asked who will be in charge of the contractor doing O & M. Mr. Scenna said the City will have a rep. on site full time. Mr. Anderson asked what material will be used for the

piles. Mr. Cunningham said helical steel piles in pairs to hold cradle or GEO piers with compacted gravel. Mr. Anderson asked if a specialty contractor will be used? Mr. Cunningham said yes, it will require some experience in this area. Charlie Serpa will monitor the project for the City and SEA will be consulted. Ms. Murphy questioned whether they still planned to do dewatering to a basin on the field. Mr. Cunningham said, no, they will require tanks that are movable on wheels.

An abutter to the project said that he owns a building on Tremont St. and there is an MWRA line that goes under his pavement with 21E test sites that overflow. Mr. Scenna said the flow will no longer go to the Roosevelt School, but they can't eliminate the flow to his building because five homes discharge through that piping. He told the owner to contact Mass DEP, (Northeast Regional Office in Wilmington).

Joan Layton, 49 Tremont St., how is project going to affect the Melrose Towers? Mr. Scenna said the project will not eliminate the problems with overflow there, but will overflow less 6-9". Mr. Cunningham said the manhole there is at the lowest point. Mr. Scenna said the manhole could be raised, but it would still overflow. Mr. Anderson reiterated what Mr. Scenna said earlier that the frequency would decrease. Mr. Scenna said they cleaned the drainage line at the Towers and took out a lot of debris which was probably holding back flow. Mr. Cunningham said that metering data shows that the City pipes are oversized. Mr. Scenna said that MWRA says the pipes are fine in dry weather but can't handle the overflow of all the cities connect in wet weather. There was some discussion about "I & I" of the various surrounding cities and the metering from those cities with MWRA.

Mr. Nerden moved to close the Public Hearing and issue an Order of Conditions with the standard conditions with one special condition to add the wording regarding dewatering from the Stormwater Mgt. narrative with settling basin being deleted. Mr. Anderson seconded the motion; and it was voted unanimously in favor.

Adjourn

Ms. Hickey moved, seconded by Mr. Anderson, and voted unanimously in favor, to adjourn the meeting at 10:10 PM.

