

Melrose Conservation Commission

Minutes for November 18, 2010

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

Absent: Steve Locke

Staff: Kathy Morgan

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

Trail Steward

Allen Swartz came before the Commission to suggest to the Commission, who manages most of the trail systems throughout Melrose, to have a trail steward for each trail. The steward would be a volunteer that would patrol the trail for litter, maintenance, and to watch for evidence of anything else going on in the woods. Mr. Swartz has volunteered to be the first steward of the First Pond Trail. He was previously a steward in Bedford, where he lived before. He and Joan Bell, Parks Superintendent, have been working on the idea and have gotten the police involved for their input. They are working by the DCR program for Trail Stewards. Joan has made up trail signs and a kiosk will be installed at the trailhead. Members felt this was a great idea and will put the word out for volunteers on their Friends list.

Continued Public Hearings

1 Indian Hill Lane (217-0181)

Mr. Pawlina, from ATP and the Fogarty's were present. Ms. Murphy summarized that an Enforcement Order was issued in order to properly delineate the wetlands, and a wetland report, dated November 13, 2010, was submitted by Martha Craig Rheinhardt. Mr. Pawlina submitted a revised plan dated 11-11-10 showing the old and new delineation, the 10' buffer, as was agreed in the original filing, the work to be completed and the steps to be taken. Mr. Pawlina said, as requested in the Enforcement Order, they will place two 8"x 8"x 16" markers, to be buried at the 10' buffer down gradient of the house. In an effort to alleviate erosion down into the wetland, Mr. Pawlina talked about the homeowner possibly installing gutters with a spreader so flow wouldn't concentrate in one area. They are still looking into their options because the house is very tall, He said that after a landscaper is hired, the silt fence will be installed. Mrs. Fogarty has already bought some plantings, that Mr. Doucette confirmed are native plantings or close to it. The fact that the Certificate of Compliance for the Superceding Order with DEP was still open was discussed. The applicant's representative indicated that the homeowners would have to deal with DEP to close that out.

Ms. Murphy moved to close the Public Hearing and issue an Order of Conditions with the special conditions as set forth in the Enforcement Order with the addition of rolling whatever rocks they can out of the wetland and placing two stone/concrete 8"x 8"x16" markers set into the ground at the 10' buffer down gradient from the house. An inspection by the Commission or its representative will be done on May 1, 2010. Mr. Anderson seconded the motion; and it was voted unanimously in favor.

Mr. Doucette moved to rescind the Enforcement Order once proof of recording of the Order of Conditions is received. Mr. Anderson seconded the motion; and it was voted unanimously in favor.

Mt. Hood Golf Course – ANRAD (217-0179)

Joan Bell, Parks Superintendent, was present. Revised plans dated 10/26/10 were reviewed for changes that were to be made. The 200' buffer was corrected. On the Resource Area Delineation Plan, sheet 1 of 2, a portion of the topography is missing, but shown on the Topographic Context Map. It was discussed that because of the scale differences, the data on the two plans couldn't be combined.

Mr. Doucette moved to close the Public Hearing and issue an Order of Resource Area Delineation, with the Resource Area plans to be revised to reference the Topographic Context Map in the blank portion on the plan. Ms. Hickey seconded the motion; and it was voted unanimously in favor.

Other Business

Dog Park

Greg Penta has been talking with Joan Bell about creating a dog park in an area at Mt. Hood. Greg was unable to make the meeting, so Joan explained the idea to the Commission. Mr. Penta has been in touch with a woman who established the Salem Dog Park and has asked her to help them. Joan advised members that they would like to make an area 150' in behind the lower maintenance building on Stillman Ave. They will be removing some invasive plants. They plan to have a neighborhood meeting and keep a distance of at least 70' from the closest neighbor with a shrubbery buffer in between. To get the size of the area that Greg wants, Joan explained that he wants to fill in a "wet dip" area and replace it some where else. Ms. Murphy said that she tried to talk him out of filling in that area, but if he is determined, they would need to file with the Commission for the work.

21 Lakeside Ave.

The owners contacted the Conservation office a while back saying that a tree came down on their garage and crushed it and that they planned to rebuild the garage on the same foundation. Because the garage was going to be built on the same foundation and no earth work would be required, it wasn't felt that a filing with the Commission would be required.

When the work was about to start the contractor informed the owner that he didn't feel the old foundation was structurally sound and a new foundation would need to be done. Ms. Murphy informed members that the garage is located 8' from Ell Pond and if the work was delayed, it could be a problem. Ms. Murphy issued an Enforcement Order for the work. Mr. Doucette asked if there was exposed dirt and said the owner should put some hay or install some other erosion control.

Mr. Doucette moved to ratify the Enforcement Order for 21 Lakeside Ave. Mr. Anderson seconded the motion; and it was voted unanimously in favor.

Adjourn

Mr. Anderson moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 PM, seconded by Mrs. Hickey, and voted unanimously in favor.