

Melrose Conservation Commission

Minutes for June 17, 2010

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

Absent: Steve Locke

Discussion

27 Lebanon St.

Mr. Aldred was present. There is an open Order of Conditions under the Melrose Ordinance. Mr. Aldred would like to amend that order to add some yard work, loaming and hydro-seeding and fill in some low points. A plan was reviewed of the work to be completed. Mr. Aldred said that he has spread 54 cubic yards of loam. Mr. Aldred said he was unaware that he needed permission to put loam and seed down. The area has not been delineated, but it was decided after Susan and Kathy did a site visit that it is an isolated wetland. Mr. Aldred would also like to install a fence along his property line. Mrs. Murphy said that fences aren't usually permitted with the Commission. Mr. Anderson asked if he is in a floodplain. Mrs. Murphy said no.

Mr. Anderson moved, seconded by Ms. Hickey, and voted unanimously in favor, that the addition of loam and seed to the back yard be considered a minor modification to the Order of Conditions already in place.

The residents of Melrose Towers came before the Commission to state their concerns with the wetland area adjacent to the Towers property. Vegetation growing in the wetland area is encroaching onto the Towers property and coming up through the pavement. Mrs. Quigley, 45 Melrose St. asked when the adjacent property became a wetland. Ms. Murphy explained that the area was always a wetland. The Commission has allowed DPW to cut back the vegetation in the fall. Mr. Doucette advised the residents that they could file for a permit to cut the weeds on the wetland side of the fence and if they were denied, they could then appeal the Commission's decision to DEP.

Mrs. Quigley stated that in 1997 DPW mowed the area to the fence. In 1998, the soccer field was installed and the field was raised 2'. She asked how come no consideration was taken for the field, for the drainage system there then. She asked if the work was properly done? Maybe that is the reason for the sanitary overflow. Ms. Murphy said that the soccer field got a permit to do the work. Ms. Murphy said that the area is in a floodplain and couldn't have been raised 2'. Ms. Murphy said that it is the Commission's charge to protect the area as a wetland. Mrs. Quigley asked if any other plant could be planted. Chair explained that a permit could be given to remove the invasive plant and put in another less aggressive native plant. The City of Melrose owns the property. Joan Bell, Superintendent of Parks, was present and gave her number to call if mowing of the field doesn't get done. The residents were told that the plants in their pavement can be destroyed. Chair explained that the entire area was a wetland and the wetland that remains is there for a purpose.

Ms. Murphy said that someone from DPW and herself saw that the reeds were not impeding the flow through the wetland, but that the pipe was clogged. Rod Eddy, 49 Melrose St., said that a surcharge of septic is coming from other parts of town. Ms. Murphy has spoken with DPW on the situation. Mrs. Quigley mentioned mosquitoes. Chair said that would be a Board of Health issue.

27 Lebanon St.

Mr. Aldred submitted a letter to the Commission requesting that the loam and seed that he wants to put down on the back portion of his lawn be considered a minor modification. Mr. Aldred was not present. Members reviewed the sketch plan submitted and felt that a better plan was needed showing the exact area of work, the limit of work and if he is proposing a fence, to show the location. Mr. Aldred will be notified of the Commission's decision.

Public Hearings

East Knoll Field (217-0180)

Matt Shuman, Project Manager for the City, and Joan Bell, Superintendent of Parks were present. The project proposes to renovate the field by doing some light grading and adding some catch basins for better irrigation. They want to install a catch basin at the SW end of the field to address the top water. Joan advised members that the City is in need of more fields for U12 & U14 and the field needs maintenance for ditches and puddles. Matt said there has been a lot of settlement over time. The area is in a floodplain and within the 100' buffer zone to BVW. Hay bales will be placed along the western fence. Sod will be placed on the field and on the outside of the field will have hydroseed put down and Calcium Chloride will be put on exposed areas, but not near woods. Matt said they won't increase fill in the area, but hopefully decrease the amount of fill. The field will be out of service in the fall.

Joan Bell said that after the snow was dumped at the field, they did tests, and put the field on an irrigation schedule. Mr. Nerden asked if any soil was added. Joan said, no. Mr. Doucette said that he would like a more detailed plan for work in a floodplain and either a stamp from an engineer or P.E. Matt said that he is a P.E. but doesn't have a stamp yet. Mr. Doucette said it is frustrating when people come into a hearing and say the elevation was changed. Matt suggested truck in for truck out, where an area is filled, take some away somewhere else. Mr. Nerden asked for elevations and a bar scale on the plan, and more survey points. Mr. Anderson asked if the city will be doing the work. Matt said the city will go out to bid. He also said that he gives a copy of the Order of Conditions along with the other instructions to contract workers. Mr. Nerden said that he would like to see organics being considered. Joan said the fields get used so much and contracts for maintenance are already in place for one more year. She will look into prescription turf services.

David Valads, 38 Goss Ave., said that 22' of crushed pipe was replaced at the field and is now working. He has seen the flooding when the sprinklers are used. He said the field is solid, an impervious surface. He said Melrose Youth Soccer is in support of the project. He knows the history of the field and even if 2' was added, the elevation would probably be the same as it was years ago. Some felt that the dumping of last year's snow at the field destroyed it. Mr. Nerden asked where the flooding is coming from. Richard Altonage, 1059 Franklin St., said at the broken catch basin. He said there is no infiltration in the field. Water just sits there. Phillip Morgan, 11 Sargent St., asked if there is any alternative to another catch basin, could a swale or a garden of some kind be used? He said the Ell Pond Committee would be willing to help. He also asked for another port-a-potty, for the grass clippings to be removed from site, and asked if a row of trees could be planted on the Fells Way side. Mr. Nerden asked Matt for a work schedule. Ms. Murphy asked members how they felt about a rain garden. Mr. Nerden said that he preferred a catch basin for lesser maintenance. Mr. Anderson said he would be in favor of trees. Ms. Murphy said that she would not be opposed to making the trees a condition in the Order, but would like to work with the Ell Pond Committee. Matt was asked to come back to the next hearing with a stamped plan with a bar scale on it, fertilizer details, and more survey points.

Mr. Anderson moved, seconded by Mr. Nerden, to continue the Public Hearing to June 17, 2010, voted unanimously in favor.

Certificate of Compliances

325 Swains Pond Ave. (217-0164)

Mr. Doucette would like to review the project further. He feels that the proposed wall was extended and closer to the resource area than what was approved. Mr. Steward, the owner, will be asked to attend the July 1st Public Hearing.

802 Lynn Fells Parkway (217-0146)

The work approved in the Order of Conditions was never started.

Mr. Nerden moved to issue a Certificate of Compliance for work never started. Mr. Anderson seconded the motion, and it was voted unanimously in favor.

8 Windsor Street (217-0177)

Mr. Doucette moved to issue a Certificate of Compliance for work satisfactorily completed. Ms. Hickey seconded the motion, and it was voted unanimously in favor.

Oak Grove Village (217-0165)

Members were not able to make it out to the site.

Adjourn

Mr. Anderson moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:10 PM, seconded by Mrs. Hickey, and voted unanimously in favor.

Approved _____ Dated _____