

Melrose Conservation Commission

Minutes for January 21, 2010

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

New Correspondence:

Lake & Pond Management brochure

MACC brochure

Memo from Denise Gaffey – Swains Pond Land Conveyance

An email was received from Nell Free, who is representing the Melrose UU Green Sanctuary Committee. They are interested in helping out with the Ell Pond Festival and wanted to come and speak with the Commission about doing an Ell Pond cleanup. Members were in support of the cleanup and would be willing to assist, but felt Ms. Free should contact Dave Dickerson with the Ell Pond Committee. Kathy was asked to contact Ms. Free and tell her to get in touch with Dave Dickerson with the Ell Pond Committee; and inform her that her group can do light cleaning, pickup trash, branches, and raking, but if they want to do any digging or anything more involved she can come speak to the Commission for approval.

Invoices

Aquatic Control bill for hydro-raking at Towners Pond - The bill came in for \$4,700.00, but mobilization was billed to both Conservation and Parks & Recreation. Members decided to deduct \$500.00 from the bill for the duplicity in mobilization.

Mr. Doucette moved to pay the invoice for hydro-raking at Towners Pond to Aquatic Control in the amount of \$4,200.00, seconded by Ms. Hickey, and voted: unanimously in favor.

Minutes

Mr. Doucette moved to approve the minutes of 10/15/09 as amended; Ms. Hickey seconded the motion; and it was voted: unanimously in favor.

Mr. Doucette moved to approve the minutes of 11/19/09 as amended; Ms. Hickey seconded the motion; and it was voted: unanimously in favor.

Ms. Hickey moved to approve the minutes of 12/3/09; Mr. Nerden seconded the motion; and it was voted: unanimously in favor.

Public Hearings

Mt. Hood/Slayton Road (217-xxxx)

Matt Shuman, Project Manager for the City of Melrose, was present for the project. Mr. Shuman explained that in 1995 & 1996 the city removed a corrugated pipe through the golf course. The city replaced the pipe with a 24" pipe and an open channel. The Golf Course and neighbors made reports of flooding heading toward Saugus on Essex Road. The project proposed involves:

Making spot repairs at 24 Slayton Rd – there is a disjointed and exposed pipe.

Maintenance of the channel – Matt said the channel is man-made. Matt said that it is not a natural channel, but it does have vegetation growing in it (possibly wetland vegetation). They would like to be able to remove about 100' up from the flow structure. They would use a mini excavator or backhoe to remove the vegetation, trying to limit sediment disturbance.

The flow structure has two 6" diameter pipes at the bottom acting as an overflow weir. They would like to remove the pipes. They will place hay bales before the structure.

Removing the overflow weir – The flow goes through a 36" pipe and meets up with a 24" pipe that is a foot higher. Matt said that he feels under regular flow conditions the 24" pipe is the issue. The low flow pipe is always under surcharge. Water is being held like a retention pond from the 24" pipe to the weir, backing up to Slayton Road. There is only a maximum of 2CFS before overflowing. Although the amount of flooding will not decrease, Matt would like to remove the weir to shorten the time of flooding. Without the weir, Matt feels the change in retention of water will be negligible.

Mr. Nerden feels that there may be a reason, other than aesthetics, that the weir was put in. Matt explained flooding problems that were told to him from the owners at 24 Slayton Rd. and 318 Laurel St. Mr. Doucette asked if the detention area was constructed. Matt said, yes.

Members are concerned for what will happen after the weir is removed, but understand that the 24" pipe is the real issue (holding back the flow). The weir is 8' wide by 2' deep. Matt said they would cut the weir in several areas and remove it slowly. Matt also said that if after they take out the weir, matters are worse, they could put the weir back.

Mr. Nerden said he doesn't like channeled streams being called a drainage feature, but conceded that this channel is lined with rip rap. He would like to see caution taken during the maintenance process proposed.

Mr. Nerden pointed out that the abutter list within the packet emailed was for another project. Mr. Shuman said that the correct abutter list was used to notify abutters. The original packet

had the correct abutter list included (no abutters were present). Matt has spoken with Joan Bell, Director of Parks & Recreation and he and Bob Beshara have spoken with the owners at 24 Slayton St. Their neighbors have lived there for 40 years and they say it has gotten worse. There was a question whether the applicant should have been listed as Parks & Recreation because of the work being done on the Golf Course. Mr. Nerden would like to get a letter from Parks & Recreation approving the work on the weir and the open maintenance channel. Mr. Nerden advised Matt that when the weir is gone, the 36" pipe will be harder to clean and it occurred to him that the weir is acting as a sediment control. In light of this, Mr. Nerden stated his reason that the weir should remain and be cut down to the 24" inlet instead of entirely removed.

Mr. Nerden moved to close the Public Hearing, seconded by Mr. Doucette, and it was voted: unanimously in favor.

Members discussed special conditions to be added.

Mr. Nerden moved to issue an Order of Conditions with special conditions as amended. Mr. Doucette seconded the motion; and it was voted: unanimously in favor.

Adjourn

Mr. Doucette moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:30 PM, seconded by Ms. Hickey, and voted unanimously in favor.

Approved _____ Dated _____