



CITY OF MELROSE

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

City Hall, 562 Main Street
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Melrose Conservation Commission Minutes for July 16, 2015

Present: Susan Murphy, Kevin Anderson, Richard Doucette, Aaron Weieneth and Kate Hickey

Absent: Michael Paiewonsky

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

Minutes

Motion by Mr. Weienth to approve the minutes from June 5, 2015. Mr. Anderson seconded the motion and it was unanimously voted in favor.

Discussion Items:

Preliminary Review of Dexter Road

The Conservation Commission discussed the proposed changes for the upcoming Dexter Road subdivision. The subdivision has been reduced from 15 to 13 lots to address slope protection restrictions. The Commission members discussed various questions and concerns to bring to the department heads meeting: Are building envelopes as shown on plans realistic for the area? Lot 6 on the plan appears to require significantly more blasting and alteration than the other lots. The commission would not support access through the hillside park conservation land. The commission was in agreement that the area will need to be examined further whether any vernal pools are present on the property.

Mill Road

An enforcement order was previously issued to the city of Melrose about an ongoing issue with too much water flow out of first pond at Mt. Hood into a nearby culvert. The City wishes to enlarge the culvert because the roadway is currently acting as a dam. Initial hydrological evaluation shows that 30% of the watershed would be impacted by the enlarged culvert. The commission is concerned about unknown downstream impacts from this proposed plan, original inverts are unknown and significant flow does occur at the culvert. The commission was in agreement that further analysis and exploration of alternatives would be required to mitigate potential future issues.

Outdoor Classroom

The Commission discussed the outdoor classroom at the Hoover school. It was suggested that a small loop trail be established on the property with limitations on not cutting any trees larger than 8 inches in diameter. The commission discussed whether some sort of permanent access should be implemented for maintenance of the area by DPW. A trash cleanup in the fall and spring was suggested to establish a level of ownership of the area.

Projects for Conservation Agent

High quality printable trail maps to be sent to printer.

Signs for conservation lands may need to be rehabbed, Mr. Doucette to check on the 4 main ones (Outdoor Classroom, Flagg Acres, Ferdinand woods and Knox trail).

Look at other town and city conservation websites for ideas and information that should be on our website.

Look into attending MSMCP and MACC events and training opportunities.

Ferdinand Road Conservation Restriction

An existing double lot currently has a conservation restriction on it. The owner wishes to alter the boundary of the conservation restriction. Building is currently 8.5 feet from the boundary and they wish to build a 14 foot addition. The commission is waiting for input from the city solicitor on whether the property owner would be able to legally alter the previously established conservation restriction boundary. The commission was in agreement that the boundary for the conservation restriction should be clearly defined, perhaps with stone bounds.

Next Meeting:

The next scheduled meeting will be Thursday, August 6, 2015 at 7:30 PM.

Adjourn

At 9:00 PM Ms. Murphy moved to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Weieneth. Unanimously in favor.

Approved

Date.

Pursuant to the 'Open Meeting Law, ' G.L. 39, 23B, the approval of these minutes by the Commission constitutes a certification of the date, time and place of the meeting, the members present and absent, and the actions taken at the meeting. Any other description of statements made by any person, or the summary of the discussion of any matter, is included for the purpose of context only, and no certification, express or implied, is made by the Commission as to the completeness or accuracy of such statements.
