



CITY OF MELROSE

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

City Hall, 562 Main Street
Melrose, Massachusetts 02176
Telephone - (781) 979-4312
Fax - (781) 979-4290

Melrose Conservation Commission Minutes for October 15, 2015

Present: Susan Murphy, Kate Hickey, Aaron Weieneth, Kevin Anderson, Zachary Drench and Michael Paiewonsky (arrived late)

Absent: Richard Doucette

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

Minutes:

Motion by Mr. Weieneth to approve the minutes from August 20, 2015. Ms. Murphy seconded the motion and it was voted 4-0 in favor with 1 member abstaining.

Motion by Ms. Murphy to approve the minutes from September 17, 2015. Ms. Hickey seconded the motion and it was voted 5-0 in favor.

Continued Public Hearing:

NOI 217-0193 Proposed 13 Lot Subdivision - 53 Dexter Road
The applicant requested a continuance to the next meeting.

Motion by Ms. Hickey to continue the public hearing for 53 Dexter Rd, seconded by Mr. Weieneth and it was voted unanimously voted 6-0 in favor.

Invoices:

An invoice was received from The Melrose Chamber of Commerce for the booth rental at the Victorian fair. The bill was for \$135.00.

Mr. Anderson moved to approve the invoice from the Melrose Chamber of Commerce in the amount of \$135.00. Ms. Hickey seconded the motion, and it was voted unanimously 6-0 in favor.

Discussion Items:

Tremont St. Water Main

Justine Carroll of Tata and Howard was present to discuss proposed water main

replacement work along Tremont street abutting Ell Pond. A water main broke on Tremont street near the DPW yard, it was closed off but the dead end has resulted in water quality issues. Existing 8" water main will be replaced with a new 8" water main, about 150' from Ell pond. It will cross about five (5) culverts. The water main will be installed underneath the existing box culverts. Dewatering will be a sedimentation basin with haybales and silt fence if the box culverts cannot maintain integrity during water main removal and installation. Flowable fill will be used over and below the new pipe to avoid creating a void space and point of culvert failure. The project meets the requirements to meet an exemption from filing as utility repair work.

Mill Road

Ms. Murphy has been in contact with the Melrose DPW. DPW says that progress was hampered by the departure of the former city engineer. DPW confirmed that the work was to begin as soon as the city had reached an agreement last spring. DPW will send a representative to the next scheduled meeting to discuss further once the new city engineer has started. It would be beneficial for the DPW to show their plan to the conservation commission for better legal protection for the city.

Outdoor Classroom

No new updates, check in at some point over winter.

Conservation Website

Conservation staff received reports of public confusion with respect to hunting in the Flagg Acres area. Staff has advised the commission that it would be beneficial to include a "no hunting permitted on conservation property" on the city conservation website. Commissioners reviewed a couple examples of rules and regulations to draw from for Melrose conservation parcels. Staff will follow up with city solicitor for legal opinion on whether there is anything else the commission will be required to do in order to implement any proposed new rules.

Comments to Planning Board regarding Dexter Road

The purpose of the letter was to leave a record of the process, the applicant has shown a lack of recognition regarding the importance of the slope protection ordinance. The current plan buffers the abutting conservation land but has made a compromise by sacrificing the hilltop. No alternative plans have been presented to the conservation commission to see if there were any alternatives that were more acceptable. There was one alternative concept submitted only to the planning board that showed the proposed roadway following closely to the property line with a stub road. The current plan will be destroying an intact, existing natural feature. The current commission opinion is that the overall look of the area is important. Preserving existing features is a necessary component. Mr. Paiewonsky will make edits to the draft and submit to staff. One commission member could show planning board how the development will change the features of the area.

Next Meeting:

The next scheduled meeting will be Thursday, November 19, 2015 at 7:30 PM.

Adjourn

**At 8:30 PM Ms. Murphy moved to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Weieneth.
Unanimously voted 6-0 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.