



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 November 19, 2015

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

Absent:

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

Minutes:

Motion by Mr. Weieneth to approve the minutes from October 15, 2015. Mr. Anderson seconded the motion and it was voted 6-0 in favor.

Public Hearing:

NOI 217-0194 229 Laurel Street

John Maguire of James Construction and Scott Smyers of Oxbow Associates were present to represent the property owner. Mr. Smyers was originally called onto the site after a large quantity of fill had been placed on the site. An enforcement order was issued by the conservation agent requiring the property owner to file a Notice of Intent and to install sediment barriers and remove the fill from the no construction zone. Oxbow Associates proposes to use a wildlife seed mix for the restoration with work to be done by hand and overseen by a wetland scientist in area close to wetland. A conservation seed mix is proposed for the area closest to the wetland. A block retention wall is proposed just at the edge of the property line. Mr. Doucette- Are there any zoning issues with having a wall that close to the property line, height of boulder wall where it connects to the concrete block wall? Mr. Smyers- Details of block wall on plan. Mr. Maguire – More details on the wall can be provided if needed, 2' x 4' keyed concrete blocks installed by backhoe from on top of the fill. Mr. Weieneth- Timeline for work to be completed? Mr. Smyers- Work to be done as soon as possible, currently working for the existing owner and a new buyer could own it by the spring. Work to be done in phases, phase I- fill removal and seeding. Phase II- new erosion control barrier to be installed and remove the remaining fill in the no construction zone and construction of the retaining wall.

Public comment

John Macdonald- 219 Laurel Street concerned that there is potential for flooding onto his

property, known flooding issue on bow street, believes wetland is larger than currently depicted on maps.

Cheryl Doucet- 223 Laurel Street, wanted to know how high the grade difference between her yard and the proposed yard would be. A boulder retaining wall will be 2-4 feet tall and expand to 5 feet high where it joins the concrete block retaining wall at the rear of the property.

Motion by Mr. Doucette to close the public hearing for 229 Laurel Street and issue an Order of Conditions with standard special conditions, seconded by Mr. Anderson and it was voted 7-0 in favor.

229 Laurel Street Enforcement Order- The conservation Agent issued an enforcement order requiring 229 Laurel Street to file a notice of intent and to install sediment and erosion control barriers. The enforcement order was amended to reference work on the two adjacent properties as the responsibility of 229 Laurel street. Amended to state remove fill and restore to original condition.

Motion by Mr. Doucette to ratify the Amended Enforcement Order, seconded by Mr. Anderson and it was voted 7-0 in favor.

Request for Determination of Applicability – Nation Grid 204 Howard Street substation
Tom Keough of AECOM, Andy Ruby of National Grid and Peter Williams, Civil Engineer present for the project.

Mr Anderson and Mr. Weieneth disclosed that they currently work for AECOM but feel that they can remain impartial in the review process.

Mr. Keough- The project was mapped in an un-named flood zone. National Grid has had the area delineated and had a wetlands analysis by Kleinschmidt. This analysis has concluded that the area within the fence is only buffer zone and all areas that are only within buffer zone for a utility don't need a permit. Ms. Murphy- Last flood information was from about 10 years ago, the commission needed updated documentation for this site.

Motion by Mr. Doucette to issue a negative determination, seconded by Mr. Paiewonsky and it was voted 7-0 in favor.

NOI 217-0193 Proposed 13 Lot Subdivision - 53 Dexter Road
The applicant requested a continuance for peer review.

Motion by Ms. Murphy to continue the public hearing to Jan 7, 2016, seconded by Mr. Doucette and it was voted 7-0 in favor.

Discussion Items:

Community Garden-

There is a local group that has been looking for an area within the city for a community garden. The planning assistant is working on coordinating the project for them. The proposed community garden area would consist of 10 to 12 10 foot by 10 foot beds. The

commission is not in favor pursuing an article 97 disposition if this use is deemed to be not consistent with the property. The Commission has concerns over necessity for a larger parking area, water connection costs and tree cutting needs for sunlight on the plots. There has been positive public interest in more community garden plots (waiting list for plots at the Winthrop school).

Mill Road-

No new update

Planning Board comments-

Mr. Paiewonsky attended the planning board meeting on the Dexter Road project. He delivered comments from the Conservation Commission to the Board. The planning board continued the hearing to their next meeting.

Mt Hood Ponds-

Joan Bell has requested someone from the Commission attend one of the Parks Department meetings this winter to discuss options regarding the irrigation ponds at Mt. Hood. 3rd pond was dry at one point this past summer, needed for irrigation. The ponds at Mt. Hood should be evaluated for water quality, haven't been evaluated yet. The commission plans on having someone attend a meeting in January.

Next Meeting:

The next scheduled meeting will be Thursday, December 03, 2015 at 7:30 PM.

Adjourn

At 9:30 PM Mr. Anderson moved to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Weieneth and it was voted 7-0 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.
