



CITY OF MELROSE

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

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Melrose Conservation Commission Minutes for October 20, 2016

Present: Kate Hickey, Zachary Drench, Richard Doucette and Susan Murphy

Absent: Kevin Anderson, Aaron Weieneth and Michael Paiewonsky

Ms. Murphy called the meeting to order at 7:35 PM.

Minutes:

Motion by Mr. Drench to approve the minutes from September 15, 2016. Mr. Doucette seconded the motion and it was voted 4-0 in favor.

Conservation Commission Banner- - Staff produced a graphic to be used for a banner (the commission will have the files for this graphic now for future possible use and consistency) and gathered several quotes from nearby printers. The Commission agreed that the graphic was sufficient for the banner and to go with the quote from the local printer. An invoice was signed for \$65 to produce a 2'x4' outdoor vinyl banner with grommets.

Public Hearing:

88 Granite Street- Notice of Intent

Gabriel Venturo(homeowner/applicant), Elizabeth Wallace(wetland Scientist from Hayes Engineering) and Robert Venturo(applicant's son).

Ms. Murphy opened the public hearing and explained that some of the previous history of the site had placed the area under federal regulation and necessitated the compensatory storage areas, replication areas and the filing of a notice of intent for any future site alterations. Ms. Wallace presented the Commission with a mitigation planting plan and accompanying narrative. She explained that the applicant is concerned that the previous mitigation plantings (12 red maple trees) have grown too large and are located too close to his home and could be damaged by high winds and pose a threat to his home. The new mitigation planting plans proposes cutting down all 12 trees and replacing them with (6) Cinnamon ferns, (5) arrow-wood shrubs, (5) Swamp Azalea shrubs and (2) Sweet Spire Shrubs. Additionally, the owner wishes to remove (2) elm trees in the rear of the property that are located near his deck and replace them with plantings of (1) dogwood, (1) Magnolia and (1) Crabapple tree towards the rear of the property (refer to file planting plan 10-20-16 Hayes Engineering).

Mr. Doucette- This project is only Bordering Land Subject to Flooding, not BVW.

Mr. Murphy- Will there be enough light for these plantings in the recessed area in the front of the house where the trees were? Ms. Wallace- The trees are currently shading out the understory but, I believe there will be enough light there once the trees are removed. Ms. Murphy- What is the schedule for the plantings and tree removal? Ms. Wallace- The trees are to be cut during the winter to stumps, with erosion controls left in place for the remainder of the winter and plantings to begin in the spring. Ms. Hickey- What year were these trees planted? Ms- Wallace- About 2001. Ms. Muphy- Possible conditions for cutting and plantings could be a specification that the new mitigation plantings must be completed within (8) months of the trees being cut. Motion to Close the public hearing by Mr. Drench, Seconded by Mr. Doucette voted 4-0 Motion to issue a standard order of Conditions with special condition that the plantings must be completed within 8 months of the start of work(tree cutting) by Mr. Doucette Second Mr, Drench and voted 4-0. No File number issued yet by MADEP so applicant understands that the Order will not be able to be issued until then.

Discussion Items:

Flagg Acres Trail clean-up- Staff was contacted by Ryan Locke, a local national honor society student, about his intention to organize a clean-up at Flagg Acres. They are planning for Sunday November 6 from 1-3. Staff will follow-up with DPW for trash bag removal from Flagg Acres parking lot on the following Monday.

Request for Certificate of Compliance 229 Laurel Street- Staff spoke with the applicant and they are waiting on the report from their consultant. The applicant has confirmed that all the other materials should be in now and will be at the next meeting if they miss this one.

10 Windsor Street- Staff spoke with the homeowner, a full survey will not be necessary to confirm compensatory storage area. The Commission will accept a few spot elevations from the area as sufficient information. Staff will contact the homeowner and their consultant and have them arrange to provide the information. Staff also informed the Commission that the homeowner plans to replace the fence along the driveway and staff will let building inspector know that the in-kind replacement of the fence won't require an additional filing.

New/Old Business:

Open Space Projects- Mr. Doucette will chair the next meeting, Ms. Murphy is exploring several ideas for open space art projects using natural materials. She is considering possibly some sort of compostable art display and has been speaking with Follow-your Art. There are two possible funding sources either the Melrose Messina Fund for the Arts or a Mass Cultural Council grant.

Conservation Land- MACC handbook has an excerpt stating that a vote is sufficient to transfer control of municipal property to the Commission. An affidavit from City Clerk certifying a true attested copy of the order is needed and then an attorney needs to record it at the registry. Municipalities are not exempt from recording fees so it could be expensive if there are many properties that will be recorded individually. The registry is not very consistent and sometimes they will record several properties for one fee and sometimes they will be viewed as individual documents and charged individually.

Encroachment onto conservation land- Staff will investigate issue on Leonard Street. Staff will send a letter to the property owner if there is a blatant violation present.

Next Meeting:

The next scheduled meeting will be Thursday, November 17, 2016 at 7:30 PM.

Adjourn

At 8:30 PM Mr. Doucette moved to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Drench and it was voted 4-0 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.