



CITY OF MELROSE

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

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Melrose Conservation Commission Minutes for April 7, 2016

Present: Susan Murphy, Zachary Drench, Kevin Anderson , Aaron Weieneth and Michael Paiewonsky

Absent: Richard Doucette and Kate Hickey

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

Minutes:

Motion by Mr. Drench to approve the minutes from February 11, 2016 as Amended. Ms. Murphy seconded the motion and it was voted 5-0 in favor.

Motion by Mr. Anderson to approve the minutes from March 24, 2016 as Amended. Ms. Murphy seconded the motion and it was voted 5-0 in favor.

Discussion Items:

39 West Emerson- Ms. Murphy explained that commission staff received a complaint about work being done in the buffer zone on Ell pond. The building department confirmed that no permit had been issued. Owner Roger Coviello was present to provide more detail on recent activities on his property.

Mr. Coviello stated that the primary motivation for the activities was a safety concern raised by several of his tenants, particularly with children playing near the edge of the pond. His response was to remove the pre-existing dock (unsafe condition) and replace the pre-existing fence with a new one. He contacted a landscaping company (Cassidy landscaping) to install the new fence along with 2-3 yards of loam from Weiss farm. After site visit by conservation agent he had landscaper return to hydro seed and spread hay bales to cover loose soil. He says the total project took about 8 hours to complete.

Ms. Murphy- I understand there was a pre-existing fence, but Melrose has a 15 foot no disturbance zone, unclear whether old fence completely enclosed the parcel before, possibly a swing gate went to the dock. The new fence is quite obvious from the opposing shore and gives the appearance of a very manicured public view that breaks from the natural setting exhibited on the neighboring properties. This project did not undergo commission review and most likely would not have been approved as it has been

done. Although the vegetation has been stabilized, the commission doesn't feel comfortable enough with this project to approve a building permit. The commission will require you (Mr. Coviello) to undergo the standard review process and file a Request for a Determination of Applicability with abutter notification.

Mr. Anderson- It is unclear whether there is a real safety issue here that is different from any other property that borders a water body.

Mr. Weieneth- This is a very visible property and the Commission needs to show that all projects must adhere to the review process.

Public comments:

Jean Borsea (and her husband Larry Borsea both tenants of 39 W. Emerson)- I was born in Melrose and I'm surprised that replacing an old fence requires a review process. I agree that the fence is visible from the other side of the pond, but there isn't any foliage yet. I have grand kids and the owner of the property is very responsive to concerns and takes care of his properties. I now know that there is a process.

Larry Borsea- I work odd hours and would see strangers out on that dock during the night. I feel better now that the dock is gone.

Public Hearing:

MBTA KEOLIS Vegetation management RDA- Mr. Kyle Fair present from Fair Dermody consultants. He distributed an updated map of the right of way with an extended sensitive areas zone near the southern end. The delineation is not being changed and the reduced sensitive areas spray will be used on the whole way. The spray is a Glyphosate derivative product that will be performed from a train in late June-August via mist application. The spray used will be less concentrated than similar products available to homeowners. The spray will not be applied during windy conditions or rain, and is done to keep areas around equipment from getting overgrown.

Motion by Ms. Murphy to close the Public hearing. Mr. Anderson seconded the motion and it was voted 5-0 in favor.

Motion by Mr. Weieneth to issue a Negative 5 determination. Mr. Drench seconded the motion and it was voted 5-0 in favor.

Outdoor Classroom- Original approved budget of \$200 for plantings. May not be enough for the project.

Motion by Ms. Murphy to approve an increased budget for native plantings at the Hoover school outdoor classroom area to \$400. Mr. Weieneth seconded the motion and it was voted 5-0 in favor.

Pond Treatment- Conservation staff- Ponds have been undergoing management intervention since the late 1990's. Minor changes from year to year with no clear stated

treatment outcome. Mr. Weieneth- The water is impaired, a pond management plan should be considered. 604B project, some sewer overflow issues have probably been resolved by now. Perhaps the Commission can be more critical of Aquatic Control's proposal if we take a more holistic approach. Conservation staff will review treatment and request more information from Aquatic Control.

Community Preservation Act- Ms. Murphy discussed whether or not to start a grass roots movement for getting a CPA ballot measure. No Objections from the Commission.

Proposed Trail Rules- A public Hearing will be necessary to follow at a meeting in June for public input on new rules and regulations.

Next Meeting:

The next scheduled meeting will be Thursday, May 05, 2016 at 7:30 PM.

Adjourn

At 9:00 PM Ms. Murphy moved to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Weieneth and it was voted 5-0 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.
