



CITY OF MELROSE

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

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Melrose Conservation Commission Minutes for September 15, 2016

Present: Susan Murphy, Richard Doucette, Kevin Anderson, Aaron Weieneth and Zachary Drench (arrived after vote to approve minutes)

Absent: Kate Hickey and Michael Paiewonsky

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

Minutes:

Motion by Mr. Weieneth to approve the minutes from August 18, 2016. Mr. Doucette seconded the motion and it was voted 4-0 in favor. (1 additional member arrived after the vote was taken)

Victorian Fair shared table Invoice- The Commission agreed to share the cost of a table at the Victorian fair this year with the Friends of the Middlesex Fells Reservation. Half the cost of a table with canopy at the fair was \$97.50 this year.

Discussion Items:

Conservation Land signs- Staff reported that two of the new signs have been installed, one at Ferdinand road to replace the broken sign that was there and one on West Hill Terrace. Please let staff know if there are any other sites that come to mind that need to have a sign. The Commission has 4 signs left that are available to be installed.

Meeting schedule regularization- The commission will establish a pilot program of meeting only on the third Thursday of each month, with the option for an additional meeting if necessary. The pilot program will run for the remainder of the year and the Commission will re-evaluate in December whether to adopt the changes permanently or revert to the twice monthly schedule.

Ponds Treatment update- Staff reported that the ponds (Ell, Swain's and Towner's have been treated and that treatment notification signs were posted around the ponds. No alum was applied to Ell pond this year, only a copper based treatment. Solitude lake management has to remove the Alum treatment item from their bill and resubmit a new bill at a later time. Solitude is expected to return at some point in the fall to do the post treatment inspection for all three ponds and the second phosphorous test on Ell pond.

Master plan update - Sustainability items- Mr. Weieneth has seen a draft copy of the sustainability section and reported that it looks like it is making good progress. He will update the Commission again once he receives a final version to review.

Conservation Commission Banner- Staff will solicit quotes for a 3-4 foot vinyl banner. A banner with these dimensions should give the Commission greater flexibility in the future to share a table with another group or have our own table. The banner should have a dark brown background with white lettering like the conservation land signs. The banner should have a tree graphic that looks more like a tree than the one on the sign, perhaps two trees or one on the side, next to the text “Melrose Conservation Commission”.

Commission Website- Some further revisions to the Commission website have been suggested. A section about the Conservation Commission act MGL chapter 40 section 8c and the responsibility of promoting the protection and development of natural resources and watershed resources. The updated meeting schedule changes should be reflected as well (meet on the 3rd Thursday of each month, with an additional meeting if necessary.)

Trail Clean-up- A fall Clean-up will be scheduled in November. The current Trail network will need to be re-blazed. Staff will check with the Engineering department and any other relevant City departments to see if any access to accurate GPS equipment exists. Markers like the ones used in the Blue Hills Reservation that indicate trail intersections on the maps could possibly be investigated for use in the Melrose trails. The trail re-blazing would most likely occur on the same time as the trail clean-up.

Conservation Lands- Concern has been raised over protections for land as conservation land. The issue has come up before with the city and the Commission may need to look into either getting a confirmatory deed from the city for the conservation lands or have two attorneys, in good standing with the MA Bar association, record an affidavit for each property

Request for Certificate of Compliance 229 Laurel Street- Staff spoke with the applicant and they would not have the materials ready in time for the meeting. The applicant has been waiting to get a surveyor to come out to the site and confirm the new grades for the restoration area. The applicant is planning to have the materials ready by the next meeting.

Next Meeting:

The next scheduled meeting will be Thursday, October 20, 2016 at 7:30 PM.

Adjourn

At 8:30 PM Mr. Anderson moved to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Drench 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.