



CITY OF MELROSE

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

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Melrose Conservation Commission Minutes for January 19, 2017

Present: Kate Hickey, Zachary Drench, Richard Doucette, Susan Murphy, Aaron Weieneth and Kevin Anderson

Absent: Michael Paiewonsky

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

Minutes:

Motion by Mr. Doucette to approve the minutes from November 17, 2016. Mr. Weieneth seconded the motion and it was voted 6-0 in favor.

Invoice:

Motion by Ms. Murphy to approve the reimbursement of \$55 for Staff training course. Mr. Weieneth seconded the motion and it was voted 6-0 in favor.

Discussion Items:

Meeting schedule pilot program- The new monthly schedule seems to be working well and will be implemented for 2017. Staff has prepared a meeting date list and distributed a copy to each member. Note that the April meeting will occur on the first Thursday, rather than the third Thursday to avoid conflicts with school vacation week.

Open Space Projects- Ms. Murphy produced an updated table of privately owned parcels and implemented a scoring system for prioritizing the list of parcels. The Commission discussed the rubric and comments from the planning department. New categories to be implemented are water present on site (pond, wetland, vernal pool) and native forest. These two categories will replace the current wildlife habitat category since the parcel size and water categories will more objectively classify this. Staff will provide aerial shots of each open space parcel under consideration for next meeting for further analysis. Ms. Hickey will prepare a ¼ mile buffer map for the parcel list using the updated Massgis buildings layer and city GIS data layers.

10 Windsor Street- Ms. Murphy summarized to the Commission that staff has met with the contractor several times and a letter was received by the Commission detailing that the driveway will be reinstalled according to the previously approved plans by May 31,

2017. The letter was discussed and whether a formal action like an enforcement order should be issued or a simple letter. The project was originally conducted under a negative determination so there is little formal documentation on file.

Motion by Mr. Drench, seconded by Mr. Anderson and voted 6-0 to issue an Enforcement Order. The Order will be issued as formal documentation only and a letter will accompany the Order to clarify that the Commission accepts the proposed plan, but wishes to formally establish a timeline for the corrective actions to be completed by.

Ponds Report –The year-end report for Swains, Towners and Ell pond from Solitude lake management was discussed along with the suggested treatment for this coming year. Staff and members of the commission should look into COLAP (Congress of lakes and ponds) for more information on long term pond management. Towners pond may need more or less intervention for maintenance. Staff will contact local watershed organizations for guidance regarding fish habitat improvement options.

New/Old Business:

MACC letter- Ms. Murphy read the draft letter from MACC requesting all Commissions in the state to sign on to if they wish. MACC will send one letter with all the Commissions as signatories.

MACC will also be celebrating 60 years of Conservation Commissions with a slideshow presentation. Staff will submit a slide for Melrose with a photo of Towners Pond, Commission name and the establishment date of the Commission (1967).

Motion by Ms. Murphy, seconded by Mr. Drench and voted 6-0 to sign on to the letter.

Towners pond/swains pond ave erosion- Staff visited area and confirmed that several orange stakes have been installed by DPW to direct snow plows away from the newly repaired berm.

Hoover School/ Outdoor Classroom- Staff received comments from Principal and she offered to attend one of the Commission hearings if desired regarding the proposed outdoor classroom improvements from last year (small trail, native plantings and interactive signs). Commission intends to coordinate with school in April.

Next Meeting:

The next scheduled meeting will be Thursday, February 16, 2017 at 7:30 PM.

Adjourn

At 9:00 PM Mr. Doucette moved to adjourn, seconded by Ms. Murphy and it was 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.