



## CITY OF MELROSE

## CONSERVATION COMMISSION

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### Melrose Conservation Commission Minutes for March 02, 2017

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

**Absent:** Kate Hickey

Mr. Doucette called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM.

#### **Minutes:**

**Motion by Mr. Weieneth to approve the minutes from January 19, 2016. Mr. Drench seconded the motion and it was voted 5-0 in favor.**

#### **Discussion Items:**

Open Space Projects update- Ms. Murphy arrived, no new updates on open space projects at this time.

Lake Rd- Driveway/ roadway may be in buffer zone, an RDA will most likely be required. The Lake Rd paper street is currently used as the access path to conservation land and this access right must be preserved if the property is developed. Possible parking area and trail access rights need to be preserved. Staff will send an email to both the City engineering department and the applicant's engineer (Hayes engineering) stating that this paper street has been used for access to the trail system around Swains pond and that access right needs to be preserved. A sign at the top and bottom of the paper street would be required at a minimum.

Ponds Treatment- Staff has received the 2017 pond treatment proposal from SOLitude Lake Management. Staff informed the Commission that the proposed alum treatment for Ell pond is time sensitive, it needs to be done by June in order to be effective. Last year there was an issue with the permitting that delayed the treatment schedule and resulted in the alum treatment not being applied.

Third party Ponds Treatment Review/Assessment- Staff has received a resume from a consultant (Ken Wagner) for the Commission to review for a potential pond treatment review. It was discussed at the last meeting that there has been concern whether treatments in Towners pond are having any negative impact on nearby Swains pond. The Commission will seek a review and re-validation of the past and current treatment practices. The Commission is open to continued treatments in Towners as long as they

are not negatively impacting Swains pond. Staff will draft a proposal using ideas from tonight and circulate to the Commission members for additional input.

The Commission will expect the consultant to be able to gather information on the past treatment history at the ponds from all relevant sources and take stock of what is and isn't working. The budget will be fixed at \$2,500 for the review. Staff will send the proposal to several consultants including Mr. Wagner.

**Motion by Mr. Doucette, seconded by Ms. Murphy and voted 6-0 to approve both the pond treatment assessment and the Solitude Lake Management proposal, contingent to budget approval by the Board of Alderman.**

**New/Old Business:**

Healthy Melrose Fair – Staff informed the members that the fair will be on Saturday May 13 and has filled out an application for the Commission table. New banner will be used at the table and more maps will be printed for distribution to the public at the fair.

**Motion by Mr. Doucette, seconded by Mr. Drench and voted 6-0 to approve \$250 for map printing.**

Leonard Rd- Staff received notice of a complaint to the Health department about dog kennels being used on the conservation land located on Leonard Rd. No evidence of the kennels was discovered when a Health dept. representative visited the site but, it was noted that there are several garden beds and other encroachments from the abutting property still present. In the fall, Staff sent a letter to the abutter requiring the removal of the fencing and other materials from the conservation land. The fence was removed but, the posts and several other objects still remain on the property. Staff will send the abutter another letter reminding them that they must remove all of their property from the conservation land.

Draft Master Plan – Mr. Weieneth informed the Commission that the draft Master plan has been completed and a public meeting and presentation will be held on March 30, 2017 in the GAR Room, Memorial Hall. A 21 day comment period will follow before the Master plan is finalized.

Next Meeting:

The next scheduled meeting will be Thursday, April 6, 2017 at 7:30 PM.

Adjourn

**At 9:00 PM Mr. Drench moved to adjourn, seconded by Ms. Murphy and it was voted 6-0 in favor.**

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Approved

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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.