



## **Waltham Conservation Commission**

**June 8, 2023**

### **Meeting Minutes**

Meeting took place via public Zoom call with participation information posted at City Hall, Government Center, and on the Commission's page of the City web site. Zoom information was circulated directly to all applicants and others on the public agenda.

Meeting called to order at 7:01PM.

**Attendees:** Vice Chair Bill Doyle, Gerard Dufromont, Bradley Baker, Louis Andrews, Alexander Sbordone.

**Absent:** Philip Moser, Michael Donovan

#### **Development Prospectus Sign Off**

- 103 Fourth Ave. Phil McCourt spoke for the applicant. The project is not in jurisdiction, sign off is needed for a city council special permit. Motion to allow the chair or vice chair to sign-off by Mr. Baker, seconded by Mr. Dufromont. **Motion passed.**
- 200 Smith Street. Brian Grisaru from King Street Properties present. These plans have been previously approved for sign-off, but not executed. The project also has an open order of conditions (316-0796). The applicant has returned for a sign-off after correcting an error related to the lot line shown on the plan. There are no changes to the plan. Motion to allow the chair or vice chair to sign-off by Mr. Baker, seconded by Mr. Dufromont. **Motion passed.**

#### **Public Meeting**

##### **Request for Determination of Applicability** (Continued from 5/25/2023)

**Applicant:** Hobbs Brook Real Estate LLC.

**Property Location:** 590 Lincoln Street

**Project Description:** Construction of two French drains, two catch basins, and a trench drain at the secondary access driveway. Work is intended to mitigate a winter icing issue from stormwater runoff and snow melt which causes a public safety hazard. Work is within the 100-foot buffer zone.

The applicant has requested a continuance. Motion to continue to the 6/22/2023 meeting by Mr. Baker, seconded by Mr. Andrews. **Motion passed.**

#### **Public Hearing**

##### **Request for Amendment to Order of Conditions** (DEP File #316-0808)

**Applicant:** Bishops Forest Condominium Trust c/o Roy Landon.

**Property Location:** Bishops Forest Drive

**Project Description:** Extension of approved sidewalk replacement by approximately 300 linear feet using design similar to approved work. Some work to be within 100' buffer zone.

Tim Williams of Allen & Major present for applicant. Mr. Williams explained the plan. The amendment would extend the sidewalk repair length. It would use the same design previously approved. There

will be no net increase to impervious area, only replacement of existing. Mr. Dufromont asked for and received clarification that the extension would result in no work in the wetlands. Mr. Baker asked into details regarding proposed soil removal and gravel depth along the sidewalk. After discussion it was agreed that soil would not be removed, but gravel could be added up to a depth of 3" along the side of the walk.

Motion to close the public hearing by Mr. Baker, seconded by Mr. Dufromont. Motion passed.

Motion to issue an amended order of conditions by Mr. Baker, to include a special condition regarding soil removal and gravel. Seconded by Mr. Dufromont. **Motion passed.**

## **Public Hearing**

**Notice of Intent** (DEP File # not yet assigned)

**Applicant:** John Colbert—MWRA

**Property Location:** Linden Street ROW; Waverley Oaks Road ROW. Project is entirely in roadway between approximately 182 Linden Street and 225 Waverley Oaks Road.

**Project Description:** Rehabilitation of existing water main (Weston Aqueduct Supply Main – WASM3).

Present for applicant: Kathleen Pearson, MWRA; Julie Sullivan, MWRA; Erica Lotz, Stantec; Ryan Stackpole, Stantec. Mr. Doyle asked into the recent test excavations at the site. Ms. Sullivan confirmed that this NOI is the result of that investigatory work. Ms. Sullivan introduced the project. Ms. Lotz presented details and noted coordination with the city tree warden regarding necessary tree removals and planned replacements. Mr. Stackpole presented additional detail and specified the work in jurisdictional areas. He detailed tree removal and replacement locations. Work is planned to run September 2024 to May of 2025 and again September 2025 to May 2026; MWRA cannot work on this main from May to September due to demand.

It was the consensus of the commission that another site visit is not necessary. Discussion.

Clarification of details of tree planning done with the city tree warden. Replacement of 1":1" has been agreed, with new trees expected to be 1¼" to 1½" caliper, approximately 360 total replacing 20 to be removed. There will be temporary road closures and lane shifts and one-way routing during work.

Most of the pipe will be replaced, but in two places sections will be filled and abandoned. Clarification that Waltham has several supply mains—there will be no interruption of service to residents while this section of main undergoes work. Clarification that most excavation material is expected to be removed, with new support fill brought in. Confirmation that there will be no impact on the new rail trail (it is across Beaver Brook from the site). Mr. Doyle expressed concern about removing these trees and replanting elsewhere instead of in this resource area. Ms. Pearson explained that this is a necessary compromise as they cannot replant above the main or the adjacent city of Waltham sewer line. They have worked this out with the tree warden. Bushes or shrubs were suggested, but the main has shallow cover here, as little as 2 feet, so this is not a good idea. Discussion. This agreement has not been finalized. It was agreed to schedule a meeting of the applicant, the tree warden, and the commission to raise ConCom concerns and finalize the agreement. Mr. Doyle was also concerned with survivability and replacement of new plantings, while MWRA needs tree number and location information to finalize contracts. Mr. Doyle would like to know more specifics of the tree warden's plan and if possible have a landscape or planting plan attached to this project. The ConCom office will coordinate and schedule this meeting. The commission recognizes the importance and value of this project and would like to see it move forward. Public comment was solicited. Paul Pavone, business manager of Laborers International Union of North America, local 560 (681 Main Street), spoke. He hoped that MWRA will use a contractor with a bona fide apprentice program, that gives health benefits, and that will employ local residents. He recommended that they hire a union contractor. It was noted that this project does not yet have a DEP file number, so the public hearing cannot be closed.

Motion to continue to 6/22/2023 by Mr. Baker, seconded by Mr. Dufromont. Discussion regarding scheduling meeting with tree warden. **Motion passed.**

### **Commission Business**

- Approval of meeting minutes from 5-25-2023. Motion to approve by Mr. Andrews, seconded by Mr. Baker. **Motion passed.**

### **Correspondence**

- INFORMATIONAL: Status of DCR Charles River invasive management project noted.
- INFORMATIONAL: MA DEP clarification regarding Sackett v. EPA noted.
- Discussion of resident complaints about Antico hauling snow into their facility and melting it into the wetlands at Beaver Brook adjacent to Clematis Ave. The commission office will send a follow-up letter.

### **Old Business**

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### **Site Visit Reports**

- Mokema Woods update (Mr. Baker). A meeting has been scheduled for next week with a contractor to get a bid for invasive species control. Mr. Dufromont will be meeting with the same contractor soon regarding the Wisteria at the Paine Estate.
- 2 Worcester Lane/Piety Corner Club (Mr. Donovan). Deferred to next meeting.

### **Committee Reports**

- **CPC:** Next meeting will be June 13, 2023.

### **New Business**

- City Council comments regarding continued remote (Zoom) meetings. Mr. Daly summarized the council comments from the budget hearing last week. It was noted that the current state allowance for remote meetings under open meeting laws runs through March 2025.

The planned meeting of the Conservation Trust Fund to follow was continued to the next meeting.

Motion to adjourn by Mr. Baker, seconded by Mr. Dufromont. All present in favor. **Motion passed.**

Meeting adjourned at 8:28 PM.