



Waltham Conservation Commission
April 25, 2019
Meeting Minutes

Meeting took place in the public meeting room, lower level, Government Center building, 119 School Street, Waltham.

Meeting called to order approximately 7:01PM.

Attendees: Chair Philip Moser, Vice Chair Bill Doyle, Bradley Baker, Gerard Dufromont, Michael Donovan, Courtney Semlow

Absent:

Public Hearing (Continued from 4-11-2019)

Notice of Intent (DEP File # 316-0746)

Applicant: Michael & Sang B. Watts

Property Location: 0 Pond End Road

Project Description: Proposed 2,300+/- sf residence with associated driveway, utilities, and drainage improvements.

Paul Finger appeared on behalf of the applicant. He noted previous concerns from the Commission regarding riverfront area ruling. Mr. Finger summarized changes to the proposal. Specifically discussed flood storage concerns and a change to the driveway grading. The new plan will add a small amount of flood storage. The driveway was also repositioned away from an abutter. Stormwater concerns were covered. The Commission had some questions about the driveway, which were answered to their satisfaction. The applicant agreed to commit to a 3-year invasive species management plan. Perennial stream questions were noted and discussed extensively. The location at which this stream shifts from intermittent to perennial has not been determined.

Mr. David Wilson spoke in the public comments period, representing residents on Sanderson Lane. He also had intermittent/perennial stream concerns. He provided old maps showing it marked as perennial on USGS maps from 1900 into the 1970s. The Commission discussed procedural concerns regarding potential appeals to the DEP and the repeated continuation of this item.

Motion by Mr. Dufromont to issue an order of conditions. Seconded by Mr. Doyle. Motion was amended to include a special condition of a 3-year invasive species management plan with annual reports to the Commission. The vote was 4 in favor, 2 opposed. **Motion passed.**

Public Meeting

Request for Certificate of Compliance (DEP File # 316-0691)

Applicant: Eversource Energy

Property Location: 200 Calvary Street

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Michael Devens, Facilities Manager for the Waltham Eversource site, appeared for the applicant. The Engineer for the project had car trouble on the way to the meeting and had not arrived. The project involves an emergency generator and fuel storage for it. The Commission scheduled a site visit for the following week, to observe conditions before approving. Motion to continue to the next meeting by Mr. Donovan, seconded by Mr. Baker. All present in favor. **Motion passed.**

Public Hearing

Abbreviated Notice of Intent (DEP File # 316-0749)

Applicant: City of Waltham

Property Location: 380 Lexington Street

Project Description: Removal of approximately 37 fruit trees from the site for transplanting.

Michael Garvin, the city Traffic Engineer, and Michael Chiasson, Directory of CPW, appeared. This is early work on the Piety Corner intersection reconstruction. The house there is to be demolished to shift the road, and the trees must be removed first. The trees will be relocated to other city property, probably Arrigo Farm. About half of the trees are in the wetland buffer. House demolition has not yet been put out to bid. Several other trees on the property will probably come down with the later roadway work. The Commission had some questions about upcoming work and the previous RDA filing. Ms. Semlow inquired about the age of the trees. Mr. Doyle noted they were only planted within the last decade or so, and the owner at that time received a violation notice for disturbing the wetland. Mr. Baker expressed the opinion that these trees are diseased and damaged and not worth saving. It will be much more cost effective for the city to cut them and buy replacements for replanting. Mr. Doyle moved to close the public hearing, seconded by Mr. Baker, motion approved. Mr. Doyle moved to issued a positive order of conditions allowing the city to dispose of these trees as they determine, with the special condition that erosion controls be located at the top of the slope (straw wattle) with an orange snow fence on the downhill side of the wattles, both to remain in place until after the demolition of the building, for proper demarcation of the site as work progresses. Seconded by Mr. Dufromont. All present in favor. **Motion passed.**

Commission Business

- Question from a concerned resident. Mr. Baker said to expect a report at the next meeting.
- Potential uses for filing fees. Mr. Moser noted that the Commission voted on this about a month earlier. The requests from that voting have been forwarded to the mayor for discussion at the next budget meeting. Mr. Baker added that it would cost approximately \$3,000 to tag approximately 25,000 trees in Mt. Feake Cemetery. This is based on a discussion with a company that is digitally tagging trees for the city of Watertown. This project was included.
- Press release ideas. This is based on the public communications survey done by a volunteer. The next step will be how to interpret the data. Mr. Moser would like to see the Commission form a subcommittee to manage this task. Ms. Semlow expressed interest in leading this. Related to this, Mr. Baker relayed the opinions of the media consultant regarding the time needed to properly launch a volunteer project then properly advertise it and circulate information, using the Wisteria project as an example. The Commission may use this project as a test case.

Correspondence

- 20 Robert Treat Paine Drive Complaint. The property in question does not appear to abut the Paine Estate, so it is not clear if this complain has merit or perhaps used an incorrect address. No action taken.

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- Keolis: Notice of Operational Plan. This is an annual notification, no action needed. Mr. Dufromont noted that Keolis owes the city plantings, to restore the area they cut without approval some time ago. Replanting has not been confirmed.
- Wayside Trail: Superseding Order of Conditions. DEP is now responsible for this appealed project. The Commission has received notification. Brief discussion on the history of the project. The Commission is allowed to make site visits, and should also receive a copy of the final approved plan (from Catherine Cagle in Planning). DEP will be responsible for issuing extensions and the certificate of compliance, which they should do with ConCom input.
- 225 Waverly Oaks Road. Request to change an order of conditions. This is the gas station at the corner of Waverly Oaks Road and Beaver Street. They have an open OOC. The applicant has noted that the standard special OOC includes a condition of “no fuel storage.” This is meant for residential properties, and this is a gas station. Mr. Moser agrees that the condition does not apply and noted that the rest of their project and conditions will be an improvement to the site. Mr. Doyle moved that the Commission allow the Chair to write a letter to the applicant notifying that this condition will not apply. Mr. Dufromont noted that the requested changes at this site might have been rejected by the City Council. He has made a site visit and feels they have met the conditions. All present approved. **Motion passed.**

Old Business

- Mr. Moser: Lazazzero Playground. No update. Will remove this item in future meetings.
- Mr. Doyle: Paine Estate forest. Working with the site. Nothing to report at this time.
- Mr. Baker. Paine Estate planting and Paine Estate trees. He noted that the Wisteria was cut down, but also all the big trees in that area. Something should be replanted there. He suggested herbs or native meadow seed. Discussion. The Commission believes it has the authority to replant here, but not specific funding. A concern is that the area has asphalt at some depth under the soil (planned for removal in a year?).
- Mr. Dufromont: Trail marking and brochure (Stonehurst). No update.
- Mr. Donovan: Totten Pond Road. No update.
- Ms. Semlow: nothing to note.

Committee Reports

- **CPC:** Next meeting is May 14, 2019.
- **Trust Fund:** No update.

Site Visit Reports

- Mr. Baker: Hillcroft Park. The site is allowed to cut everything, which he does not approve of, but the Commission approved and the explanations given on site were appropriate. They are removing trees to create stormwater storage underground in the playground. New trees are planned. He wondered if the storage water could be used to water the new plantings. Knotweed control is also a concern, as only one side of the creek will be controlled. He is concerned that the control will be ineffective because of this. Discussion of what the Commission approved and what is expected to happen at the site. Mr. Baker reported saving several trees at the site. No trees on site had been marked, so everything could have been lost. Dangerous or diseased trees were removed, erosion controls are in place, things look good based on what was approved by the Commission. Discussion of stormwater storage and dewatering.
- Cooper Street. Mr. Dufromont and Mr. Baker visited with an arborist and developer representatives. The developer is not responsible for cleanup at the riverfront (it is DCR), but

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has agreed to do some work to improve the area. Which trees to keep, remove, trim, etc. were discussed. More trees are being removed than expected. Some tree condition issues might be from the fire at the site. Mr. Baker noted that some of the trees to be removed would eventually be a problem for the paths and should be dealt with now, not later. He approved the amount of cutting based on tree conditions. He has concerns about a succession or replacement plan, and also about the removal of downed trees from the river, as it would impact wildlife habitat. Mr. Dufromont noted that DCR and the site seem to have some plan to develop the space for better access and to allow or encourage kayak and canoe use here.

New Business

- Charles River watershed cleanup, scheduled for April 27, 11AM. This is the Waltham Land Trust and CRWA. Mr. Dufromont believes there is another large cleanup scheduled by the city for May 11. The April cleanup will be more focused on playgrounds and other sites. Mr. Moser noted that he is involved in an invasive cleanup project on the river in the vicinity of the Shaw's on River Street. Cutting is planned, but no soil disturbance.
- Mr. Moser noted three accounts in the Commission budget that have been carried forward from past years. Discussion of purpose, possible reallocation. Mr. Doyle noted that the money in the signage account was intended for installation, correction, and repair of signs produced several years ago. An inventory of what is installed and could be installed is needed. The consensus was to reallocate that account (approximately \$3,000). Another account contains \$10,000 for surveying the Paine Estate land. A survey was completed, but he recommended keeping this to fund surveys to document known and suspected encroaching abutters. The Commission concurred. A third account labelled "Open Space" contains \$50,000. It is listed as a capital project. The specific purpose is not known to anyone currently on the Commission. Mr. Moser is investigating with the City Auditor to discover details.

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

Meeting adjourned approximately 9:00 PM.

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