



**Waltham Conservation Commission
October 18, 2018
Meeting Minutes**

Meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m.

Attendees: Chair Philip Moser, Vice Chair Bill Doyle, Brad Baker, Mike Donovan, Gerard Dufromont, Courtney Semlow

Absent: None

Public Meeting (Continued from 10-4-2018)

Request for Certificate of Compliance (DEP File # 316-0671)

Applicant: Andi Abes

Property Location: 70 Hiawatha Avenue

Motion made by Mr. Doyle to continue until the next meeting, seconded by Mr. Baker. All in favor. **Motion passed.**

Public Meeting

Request for Determination of Applicability

Applicant: MBTA

Property Location: Totten Pond Road @ 400 Totten Pond Road

Project Description: Reconstruction of bus stop to improve ADA accessibility

Holly Palmgren, MBTA Environmental, introduced Sandra Clarey, Project Manager with McMann Associates. Ms. Clarey noted that a number of MBTA bus stops have accessibility issues. For this project, they are relocating the bus stop to the middle of a driveway to the far side of the driveway and adding a sidewalk along the edge of Totten Pond Road from the driveway to the Winter Street intersection. They will also add crosswalks at the intersection.

Mr. Moser asked if there will be any added impervious area in the buffer zone. Ms. Clarey replied that there is no existing sidewalk right now, but they will be adding one.

Motion made by Mr. Doyle to issue a Negative Determination of Applicability, with the condition that the erosion controls are installed before construction starts and the Commission is notified. Motion seconded by Mr. Dufromont. Discussion of the motion: Ms. Semlow asked if any trees are being taken down. Ms. Clarey replied that none will be. All in favor of the motion. **Motion passed.**

Commission Business

- **Approval of meeting minutes from 10-4-2018:** Motion made by Mr. Doyle to approve the meeting minutes from 10-4-2018, seconded by Mr. Dufromont. All in favor. **Motion passed.**

Old Business

Mr. Moser

- **Lazzero Playground:** Mr. Moser stated that Recreation Director Nick Abruzzi told him that after a couple of years of weedwacking the Japanese knotweed, it wasn't sufficient to get rid of it. Mr. Abruzzi will talk with CPW to see if they want to propose a limited herbicide application to the Conservation Commission.
- **Potential uses for filing fees in administering the Wetlands Protection Act:** Mr. Moser noted that the Commission receives an average of \$4800 per year in filing fees. Elected officials have requested that the Commission come up with a use for the money. It is restricted to administration of the Wetlands Protection Act. Mr. Moser is compiling a list of ideas.

Approved 11-1-2018

Mr. Doyle

- **579 Lexington Street:** Mr. Dufromont requested that this be taken off the agenda. Mr. Doyle will have Julie look up the Enforcement Order and have another letter sent to the property owner.

Mr. Baker

- **Paine Estate planting:** Mr. Baker stated that the native perennials that were planted by the meadowscaping group are doing great. They were accidentally mowed down twice, but are still thriving. He will look into a way for them to not be mowed next year. Mr. Baker asked if more leaf compost should be put around the plants so they are more easily identifiable. He would also like a water tank installed for next summer.
- **Paine Estate trees:** Mr. Baker reported that the baby hemlocks that were tagged last year seem to be still alive. He noticed that there is a Norway Maple (invasive tree) on the property and would like to work with the Historical Commission to have the tree taken down.
- **Paine Estate Wisteria:** The Wisteria is growing again. Mr. Baker would like CPW to cut it down over the winter.

Mr. Dufromont

- No updates

Mr. Donovan

- No updates

Ms. Semlow

- No updates

Committee Reports

- **CPC: Dana Court Spray Park:** Mr. Doyle stated that \$350,000 was approved to design and construct a spray park at the Dana Court play area.
- **Trust Fund: *Potential purchases of land, easements, or conservation restrictions using trust funds.*** Mr. Dufromont will be discussing this at the Commission's annual Trust Fund meeting later this evening.

Site visit reports

- **National Grid:** Mr. Doyle stated that a Negative Determination was issued for repaving on the site. Part of the determination was to do a site visit. He met with the consultant today and they are willing to do everything that they talked about in the determination.
- **Graverson Playground:** Mr. Moser met with Nick Abruzzi to review the fencing that will be going in at the back right side of the property separating the bioretention areas from the usable portion of the park. Mr. Moser requested that they leave a 4-6 inch gap under the chain-link fence to allow for wildlife in and out of the bioretention areas. Mr. Abruzzi and the superintendent for the site agreed to do so. Mr. Moser also asked if the existing run-down chain-link fence that the bioretention area backs up to can be removed. It interferes with wildlife movement and it's impossible to maintain.
- **Lyman Estate:** Mr. Baker reported that they mowed everything down to the ground and seeded with the grassy mix. No trees were cut down. He said that it looks beautiful. Mr. Moser agreed.
- **MBTA Right-of-Way:** Mr. Dufromont noted that they moved all of the logs from the trees they cut down to the Beaver Street area and they were scheduled to be removed the next day. They put more gravel in and will be putting in woodchips.

Motion made by Mr. Donovan to proceed with the Trust Fund Meeting prior to 8:00 p.m., seconded by Mr. Doyle. All in favor. **Motion passed.**

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:52 p.m.