



**Waltham Conservation Commission  
August 13, 2020  
Meeting Minutes**

Meeting called to order at 7:06 p.m.

**Attendees:** Chair Philip Moser, Vice Chair Bill Doyle, Gerard Dufromont, Bradley Baker, and Michael Donovan

**Informal Discussion**

- **Excess fill at Graverson Playground:** Carolyn Cooney of Carolyn Cooney and Associates, the contractor representing the City of Waltham Parks and Recreation Department asked for an informal discussion to introduce the upcoming Notice of Intent to correct the excess fill that was added to the 100 year floodplane at Graverson Playground.

There are two options to correct the additional fill: 1) Tear up Graverson Playground to remove the excess fill or 2) Remove fill in the same floodplain outside of Graverson Playground. The Contractor is exploring option 2 to remove urban fill that was placed before the Conservation Act went into effect from the Mokema Woods Conservation Land to compensate for the lost flood storage at Graverson Playground.

The Commission, as well as abutters, had an opportunity to ask questions and express concerns to the Contractor that will be factored into the Notice of Intent. The Contractor plans to file the Notice of Intent for the next meeting.

- **Request for use of Storer Conservation Land:** Sarah Besse, along with four colleagues, wanted to discuss about the possibility of doing some early childhood environmental education at the Storer Conservation Land or Chesterbrook Woods. They have been running this successful program through the Arnold Arboretum and parents in Waltham have been asking for a similar program in Waltham. They want to work in conjunction with the Waltham Vocational program to implement in Waltham.

Commission members had an opportunity to ask questions, express concerns, and share their enthusiasm for the project.

The next step is for Mr. Moser to approve and sign their Application to Request Permission for Site Use/Project.

**Public Hearing** (continued from 7-16-2020)

**Notice of Intent** (DEP File # 316-0767)

**Applicant:** Astra Zeneca Pharmaceuticals LP

**Property Location:** 35 Gatehouse Drive

**Project Description:** Construct additional parking along the existing fire access road and an open field.

The applicant has asked for this item to be continued to the next meeting on September 3rd.

Motion made by Mr. Doyle to continue to the next meeting, seconded by Mr. Dufromont. All in favor.

**Motion passed.**

## **Public Meeting**

### **Request for Determination of Applicability**

**Applicant:** Keolis Commuter Services

**Property Location:** MBTA Right-of-Way

**Project Description:** Renew wetland map(s) along the Right-of-Way in Waltham.

The applicant has asked for this item to be continued to the next meeting on September 3rd.

Motion made by Mr. Donovan to continue to the next meeting, seconded by Mr. Dufromont. All in favor. **Motion passed.**

## **Public Hearing**

**Abbreviated Notice of Intent** (DEP File # 316-0768)

**Applicant:** Cambridge Savings Bank

**Property Location:** Across from 81 Wyman Street

**Project Description:** Cutting and removing trees in a Bordering Vegetated Wetland associated with a stormwater detention basin.

The applicant withdrew their application on August 13, 2020.

## **Commission Business**

- **Approval of meeting minutes from 07-16-2020:** Motion made by Mr. Donovan to approve the minutes from the 07-16-2020 meeting, seconded by Mr. Dufromont. All in favor. **Motion passed.**
- **Update on filing fee projects:** No updates.
- **Storer Conservation Land Encroachment:**
  - **Ivy Land Property – Site Visit report:** Mr. Donovan conducted a site visit to 55 Ivy Lane to inspect the arborvitae hedges. Mr. Donovan recommends they be re-located to the property line, the sod be removed within the Paine Estate, the irrigation be removed from the Paine Estate, and areas should be seeded with native grass seeds. Mr. Moser and Mr. Donovan will send a letter summarizing actions that the Conversation would like the homeowners to take.

- **Storer Conservation Land Management Plan:** No updates.
- **Approval of GIS maps:** The Commission all like the GIS maps and Mr. Moser will give Eric Rizzo from the IT Department the approval to make these maps live on the City website.

### Correspondence

- **Possible Cyanobacteria Bloom in Charles River Lakes District:** There are several bacteria, including a hazardous bacteria, in the Charles River. Signs have been posted to notify folks near the river.
- **Algonquin J-1 Pipeline Maintenance Project:** The Commission received notification about the maintenance project near Old Winter Street.
- **Outdoor Learning Opportunities (Brad):** Brad's neighbor has asked that in the design for the new high school, trees be planted and tagged so that students could learn about trees. Mr. Donovan is on the board for the new high school and will work with Brad to bring this to the Board's attention.
- **Hillcroft Playground:** Follow up to the last meeting. Michelle listened to the meeting when the contractor came in front of the Commission to request a Certificate of Compliance. At that time, there was no sign of knotweed because it was winter time. A second cut and dab was supposed to happen in the spring, but the Commission does not think that happened. Michelle followed up with Mr. Abruzzi for more information about knotweed and removing erosion controls. The new park ranger did go up to the site and cut back the invasives to allow for people to walk on the walkway. Michelle will reach out to Mr. Abruzzi to find out how many employees have the licensing to spray knotweed.

### Old Business

- **Open Enforcement Orders:** No updates.
- **Worcester Lane Culvert:** No updates.

### Committee Reports

- **CPC:** CPC meeting scheduled for September will take place remotely.
- **Trust Fund:** No updates.

### Site visit reports

- **554 Lexington Street:** Several neighbors complained about the exploratory borings. Mr. Moser went to see the site and there was no work taking place in the wetlands. Regulations allow borings and Mr. Moser did not see any problems.

### New Business:

- **Store Response – Environmental Cleanup:** A transformer went down on Rosehill Way and the Commission was notified to inform us they were cleaning up the damage.
- **Costco Certificate of Compliance –** A request was made to have the Commission to resign the Certificate of Compliance because the original Certificate of Compliance was never filed

with the Registry of Deeds.

Motion made for the Commission to go in Executive Session to discuss a pending lawsuit at 205 Willow Street made by Mr. Moser, seconded by Mr. Donovan. All in favor. **Motion passed.**

Motion made by Mr. Donovan to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Doyle. All in favor. **Motion passed.**

Meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.