



**Waltham Conservation Commission
October 22, 2020
Meeting Minutes**

Meeting called to order at 7:02 p.m.

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

The Commission welcomed a new member to the board: Matthew Deveaux.

Public Hearing (continued from 10-8-2020)
Notice of Intent (DEP File # 316-0770)
Applicant: City of Waltham
Property Location: 554 Lexington Street
Project Description: New High School project

The project team for this Notice of Intent has asked for a continuance to the next meeting.

Mr. Moser had two brief announcements about this project:

1. The consultant hired by the Commission to conduct a peer review has begun work this week.
2. The applicant has submitted an updated Notice of Intent with updated phosphorus calculations.

Motion made by Mr. Doyle to continue to the next meeting on November 5, seconded by Mr. Baker.

Discussion on the motion: Mr. Baker would like to see subcommittees for various topics for this Notice of Intent to vet data in advance of the meeting. Mr. Moser and Mr. Doyle suggested that we should leave this for the peer reviewer to work on. Mr. Dufromont pointed out that the Charles River Watershed has been working closely with the applicant to work on the phosphorus numbers.

All in favor. **Motion passed.**

Motion made by Mr. Dufromont to add an item to the agenda, seconded by Mr. Donovan. All in favor.
Motion passed.

Development Prospectus:

- **114 Felton Street:** Attorney Bret Francis from Scafidi Juliano, LLP represented the petitioner: Joseph Vanaria and Vanaria Landscaping. This project has several lots: 114 Felton Street, 44 Williams Street, 44R Williams Street, and 56 Williams Street. These lots are in the process of being combined into one lot. There is an open Order of Conditions that they are looking to close out in the near future. The petitioner is looking to scale back on his landscaping business and add a waste transfer station and organic storage, which requires permits from City Council.

This location is within 200 ft. of the Charles River. Since there is an open Order of Conditions, the Commission suggested Mr. Francis do a bit more research and attend a future meeting.

Public Meeting (continued from 10-8-2020)

Request for Determination of Applicability

Applicant: Floor & Decor c/o Centerpoint Integrated Solutions, Inc.

Property Location: 80 Second Avenue

Project Description: Redevelop existing property for a new retail store.

Austin Turner from Bohler Engineering represented the applicant. At the last meeting, the Commission suggested that Mr. Turner collaborate with the Cambridge Water Department and the Charles River Watershed Association to prepare phosphorus calculations at this location.

Discussion ensued between the representative and the Commission. Mr. Moser believes that a project of this magnitude should have a Notice of Intent filed.

Motion made to issue a positive Determination of Applicability requiring a Notice of Intent for this project made by Mr. Baker, seconded by Mr. Dufromont. All in favor. **Motion passed.**

Commission Business

- **Approval of meeting minutes from 10-8-2020:** Motion made by Mr. Doyle to approve the minutes from the 10-8-2020 meeting, seconded by Mr. Baker. All in favor. **Motion passed.**
- **Update on filing fee projects:**
 - **Hardy Pond Watershed Stormwater Improvements:** No update, however Mr. Moser said they will be starting work soon.
 - **Mt. Feake Riverfront study:** A requisition for the Mt. Feake riverfront study has not been sent in yet.
- **Mt. Feake trees:** This discussion was held at the last meeting. Moser suggested that we use the Mt. Feake Riverfront study to make recommendations about re-planting fallen trees.
- **Storer Conservation Land Encroachment:** No updates.
- **Storer Conservation Land Management Plan:** No updates.

Correspondence

- **Beekeeping opportunity:** A beekeeper has reached out to Ann Clifford, curator of the Paine Estate, to request placing hives in the woods of Stonehurst to raise bees. The Commission did not think this was the appropriate place for beehives.
- **Markings on trees and rocks in the Chesterbrook Woods:** A resident on Chesterbrook Road has noticed an increase in markings on trees and rocks in the Chesterbrook Woods and Storer Conservation Land. Mr. Dufromont will do a site visit and the resident will contact the Athletics Director at Waltham High School to see if it may be the Cross Country Track Team making these markings.
- **Fire pit and stick structure:** Ann Clifford, curator of the Paine Estate, noticed that someone had built a fire pit and a tee-pee looking stick structure on the grounds of the Storer Conservation Land. Fire is prohibited from the woods at Paine Estate, so the fire pit has been taken apart and the stick structure will be dismantled shortly.
- **Tree cut down in Chester Brook Woods:** The resident on Chestbrook Road also observed a tree that had been cut down. The tree did not fall down and was not professionally cut. It looked like someone had used an ax to cut down the tree and then dragged the tree many feet away for the stump. Mr. Dufromont will take a look when he visits the location to see the white markings on trees and rocks.
- **Update from Lyman Estate (DEP File# 316-0734):** Mr. Baker has been visiting the Lyman Estate on a regular basis to observe the invasives. Mr. Baker presented a graphic to propose clean up ideas at this location. The Commission made various suggestions about how to accomplish the goals that Mr. Baker would like to achieve.
- **98 Lakeview Avenue:** A local resident reported the homeowners at 98 Lakeview Avenue have add asphalt to a paper road. This location has receive a potential violation letter in the past and have now paved a paper road that is within the Conservation's jurisdiction.

Motion made by Mr. Doyle to issue an Enforcement Order to the homeowners, seconded by Mr. Baker. All in favor. **Motion passed.**

- **Pesticide use at Graverson Park:** A neighbor observed pesticide being applied to the playground. The Rec Department received the information from the contractor. Mr. Moser cited that their Order of Conditions states that use of pesticide is not allowed. Mr. Moser will reach out to Parks and Rec to inform them if they need to use pesticide, they need to come in front of the Commission for permission.

Old Business

- **Open Enforcement Orders:** No updates.
- **Graverson Park:** Mr. Dufromont reported that the drains at home plate at Graverson Park have been fixed.

Committee Reports

- **CPC:** Next Tuesday's meeting has been cancelled, but the November meeting will take place.
- **Trust Fund:** No updates.

Site visit reports

- **Wisteria at Paine Estate:** Mr. Baker has continued to see Wisteria growth post-treatment. Mr. Baker suggests that someone return for another spraying. Mr. Donovan and Mr. Moser explained that the contractor fulfilled their obligation according to the contract. Funding prevents us from being able to have another treatment this year.
- **Mokema Woods:** Mr. Dufromont visited this project site. Trees have been cut down and they are in the process of conducting a survey and drawing up new plans. The project team will come back to the Commission with their proposed Phase 2 of the project.

New Business

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

Meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m.