



**Waltham Conservation Commission  
December 7, 2017  
Meeting Minutes**

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

**Attendees:** Chairman Bill Doyle, Brad Baker, Mike Donovan, Gerard Dufromont, Vice Chairman Philip Moser (arrived at 7:01 p.m.)

**Absent:** None

**Public Meeting**

**Request for Certificate of Compliance** (DEP File # 316-0680)

**Applicant:** City of Waltham

**Property Location:** Cedarwood Playground: 25 Intervale Street

Carolyn Cooney represented the applicant. She noted that there was a change from the original plan. It was an oversight not to let the commission know that per the mayor's request, in back of the basketball court for security concerns, they changed the plan from planting grass to adding a weed barrier and stone dust topping. The area is compacted now. There doesn't appear to have any erosion. Everything else was done to the original plan. The infiltration chambers are in and there's no discharge to the wetlands. Mr. Doyle asked if the water from the nearby wetland goes down the street towards the area that was changed from the original plan. Ms. Cooney doesn't believe so.

Mr. Baker asked about the landscape cloth that is under the stone dust and if it can be removed. Ms. Cooney replied that the city's purpose of the cloth was to prevent the area from being colonized (i.e., plants from becoming overgrown). She doesn't feel it can be easily removed, but stated that the commission can request it. Mr. Doyle noted that this is a Certificate of Compliance request and the commission needs to determine if the project complies with the approved plan. Mr. Moser stated that stone dust is good for a walking path surface, but doesn't have useful engineering properties for an area that gets runoff from the hillside. It could easily erode away. He would like to see at minimum a layer of crushed stone placed over the stone dust so that the stone dust doesn't erode in the wetland area.

Mr. Dufromont asked how big the area is. Ms. Cooney believes it's approximately 2,000 sq. ft.

Commission members will stop by the playground to look at the area in question before the next meeting.

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

**Public Meeting**

**Request for Certificate of Compliance** (DEP File # 316-0690)

**Applicant:** City of Waltham

**Property Location:** Drake Playground: 3 Hazel Street

Carolyn Cooney represented the Recreation Department for the City of Waltham. There weren't any changes from the original plan. The playground is in a flood zone. The compensatory storage was to dig out a swale and trench drain. It was built to what was approved by the commission.

Mr. Dufromont and Mr. Donovan are very pleased with how the park turned out.

Motion made by Mr. Donovan to issue a Certificate of Compliance, seconded by Mr. Baker. All in favor. **Motion passed.**

Approved 12-21-2017

**Public Meeting** (Continued from 11-16-2017)  
**Request for Certificate of Compliance** (DEP File # 316-0689)  
**Applicant:** Robert Farrington/Windsor Village at Waltham Co.  
**Property Location:** 976 Lexington Street

Joe Porter, VTP Associates, represented the applicant. He apologized for the delay in getting back to the commission. Regarding the erosion controls, they replaced the old silt fence with new silt fence, replaced the hay bales with a straw wattle within the past two weeks. They installed the railroad tie border with a stone wash to diffuse any volume that is coming over the Cape Cod curb temporarily. As a long-term fix, they are proposing to replace the existing catch basin with an oil and gas sediment tank. They have done extensive videoing as well as powerwashing the pipe but it comes to a stone at the end of it and it's not functioning. The catch basin fills up and it doesn't have a relief.

They want to remove the black mulch and plant a New England meadow mix to stabilize the area on a permanent basis. Mr. Porter stated that on the downhill side of the parking lot, they will be removing the concrete Cape Cod berm and putting in a vertical precast to control the runoff from the parking lot.

Mr. Moser noted that when the commission went out to the site in January 2017 for the Certificate of Compliance request, the erosion at that time was primarily coming from a stream of water that comes from the downspout off the building.

Mr. Porter replied that there was a break in one of the water lines and that's what caused it. The meadow mix will resolve any of that erosion.

Mr. Baker noted he saw a lot of erosion coming down the hill from the sidewalk and the steps. If they're catching the water on the parking lot, that's good. He would also like to see them catch the water coming down the hill. Mr. Porter suggested putting a downspout into a stone trench to diffuse it.

Mr. Baker asked when they plan on doing the work. Mr. Porter replied in the spring.

Mr. Moser asked how often the area should be inspected between now and April. Mr. Porter replied once a month.

Mr. Moser stated that where the Cape Cod berm was installed, it's about 3 inches tall. The commission had requested that the curb be 6 inches tall.

Mr. Dufromont asked if they should put down hay or something to stop the water from coming down the hill until they can come up with a plan. Mr. Doyle suggested putting in a silt fence right in front of the guard rail and just behind the curb.

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

#### **Informal Discussion**

- Briar Glen Village Apartments, DEP File # 316-0175 and/or 316-0280

#### **Informal Discussion**

- Pizzi Farms Condominiums, DEP File # 316-0175 and/or 316-0280

Motion made by Mr. Moser to continue the two Informal Discussions until the next meeting, seconded by Mr. Dufromont. All in favor. **Motion passed.**

#### **Commission Business**

- Motion made by Mr. Moser to approve the meeting minutes from 11-16-2017, seconded by Mr. Dufromont. All in favor. **Motion passed.**

#### **Correspondence**

- **East Middlesex Mosquito Control Project:** An e-mail was received stating that the stream behind Leitha Drive will be dredged and the material will be spread evenly over the bank. Mr. Doyle noted that this is not public land and he doesn't know if there is an easement that gives any rights to the city to go in and maintain the drainage ditch. This ditch drains to a culvert which leads to Hardy Pond. City Engineer, Steve Casazza, sent an e-mail to the commission asking that the commission move this project forward. Mr. Doyle is concerned that this is a resource area and a filing must be submitted, or a representative needs to come before the commission letting them know this is a limited project and it doesn't require a formal filing. The commission will send a response letter asking for documentation showing how the project is exempt from filing a Notice of Intent.

Motion made by Mr. Moser to take an item out of order, seconded by Mr. Dufromont. All in favor. **Motion passed.**

Purna Nepali from Nepal, is a Fulbright Visiting Research Fellow working as a postdoc at Brandeis University. His research is mainly focused on agriculture, land and food. The commission members suggested Dr. Nepali contact the Waltham Fields Community Farm and the Waltham Land Trust to aid in his research.

**Correspondence** (continued)

- **106 Galen Street:** The commission received notification that a landscaper has been dumping leaves and grass into the nearby pond. A letter will be sent to both the homeowner and the landscaper.

**Old Business**

**Mr. Doyle**

- No updates

**Mr. Baker**

- No updates

**Mr. Dufromont**

- No updates

**Mr. Moser**

- No updates

**Mr. Donovan**

- No updates

**Committee Reports**

- **CPC:** No updates
- **Trust Fund:** No updates

**Site visit reports**

- **200 Smith Street:** Mr. Dufromont met with the builder, Paul Finger's manager, and the person who installed the erosion controls. Mr. Dufromont was asked if the erosion controls could be removed since they feel the land has been protected and everything has grown back. He allowed some of it to be removed. He also allowed the silt fencing to be removed in the wetlands. He told them that if they removed any parts that he told them to keep, they are responsible for repairing any erosion.
- **Second Avenue Hotel:** Mr. Dufromont has checked on this project and it's coming along quite well.

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:27 p.m.