



Waltham Conservation Commission
May 27, 2021
Meeting Minutes

Meeting called to order at 7:01 PM.

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

Absent:

Public Hearing (Continued from 5-13-2021)

Notice of Intent (DEP File # 316-0784)

Applicant: Daniel Fraine, Cambridge Savings Bank

Property Location: Across from 81 Wyman Street

Project Description: Cutting and removing trees

Appearing for applicant: Leo Garneau, Northeastern Consulting Forestry Services. Discussed recent site visit by commission and scope of work, which will be in two phases. Phase 1 is primarily pruning and removal of hazards. Phase 2 is still to be formulated. Concern over removal of trees vs. leaving non-hazard dead trees for wildlife habitat and erosion control. Will leave most in place. Long term invasive species plan (LTISP) to be developed as part of Phase 2. Jamie O'Connell spoke for Cambridge Water Department. Against tree removal and notes the site needs LTISP. Motion to close discussion by Mr. Donovan, seconded by Mr. Baker. **Motion approved.** Motion to approve Phase 1 with the condition of no tree removal (exc. hazards). Any removal of trees in Phase 2 will require commission approval. Motion to approve by Mr. Doyle, seconded by Mr. Donovan. Mr. Garneau confirmed that they will plan to remove hazard trees only with a botanist's approval and agreed to return for Phase 2 approval. Motion amended to include this condition by Mr. Doyle, seconded by Mr. Donovan. **Motion approved.** Motion to approve positive order of conditions by Mr. Doyle, seconded by Mr. Donovan. **Motion approved.**

Public Hearing (Continued from 5-13-2021)

Notice of Intent (DEP File # 316-0787)

Applicant: Douglas Drohan

Property Location: 459 Lexington Street

Project Description: Kitchen addition

Applicant appeared for self. Mr. Donovan summarized site visit. Commission has previously requested that applicant include clarification of wetlands buffer line on plans which has not yet been done. Engineer is scheduled to be on site for this next week. Commission asked if applicant would agree to continue this to next meeting. Applicant agreed. Mr. Donovan motioned to continue, Mr. Deveau seconded. **Motion approved.**

Approved 6-10-2021

Public Meeting

Request for Certificate of Compliance (DEP File # 316-0717)

Applicant: Nick Abruzzi, City of Waltham, Department of Recreation

Property Location: Graverson Playground, 16 Pine Vale Road

Appearing for applicant: Carolyn Cooney. Reviewed history of project. Mokema work is primarily a compensatory storage swap for fill at Graverson Playground. Matt Hodge also appeared to explain the cut, fill, and flood storage at each site. Commission satisfied with explanations. Motion to issue COC made by Mr. Doyle, seconded by Mr. Deveau. **Motion passed.**

Public Meeting

Request for Extension of Order of Conditions (DEP File # 316-0648)

Applicant: MA Department of Conservation and Recreation

Property Location: Purgatory Cove

Joe Onorato appeared for applicant. Provided extensive history of project. Mr. Onorato represents a new subcontractor for DCR on the project, Water & Wetland. Continuation of project first approved in 2012. Commission has confirmed that project is eligible to receive an extension due to timing of various state actions on automatic extensions in intervening years. Extensive discussion of prior and planned work on the project, including details of hand-pulling vs. mechanical harvesting efforts and specific herbicide applications. Questions raised were answered to commission's satisfaction. Mr. Dufromont raised issue of removal of temporary roadway built for 2012 project. Mr. Onorato believes it has been removed and will confirm (it is not needed for continuing project). Annual report was a condition of original approval and Mr. Onorato agreed to provide photos and annual report. Mr. Doyle moved to provide a 3-year extension with the condition of continuing annual reports. Mr. Dufromont seconded. **Motion approved.**

Informal Discussion

Property Location: 1432 Main Street

Discussions continued from 5-13-2021 meeting. Attorney Brian Charville appeared on behalf of the property owners. Ryan O'Toole, Mark Arnold, and Scott Goddard also present. Mr. Arnold presented the Buffer Zone Restoration Plan and summarized it. Commission discussed and suggested minor changes which were agreed to. Commission agreed to issue an amended enforcement order in lieu of requiring a NOI upon receipt of revised plan, and to withdraw letter upon successful completion of plan. Letter from Weston abutters (not in Waltham Commission jurisdiction) was mentioned. Motion to issue amended letter including withdrawal conditions made by Mr. Doyle, seconded by Mr. Donovan. **Motion passed.**

Public Meeting

Request for Extension of Order of Conditions (DEP File # 316-0743)

Applicant: Tali Gill-Austern

Property Location: 157 Riverview Avenue

Mr. Gill-Austern requested an extension to previously approved project. Explained minor changes, which result in less impact than previous approval. Mr. Doyle moved to grant a 2-year extension with no new conditions. Mr. Dufromont seconded. **Motion passed.**

Informal Discussion (DEP File # 316-0743)

Applicant: Tali Gill-Austern

Property Location: 157 Riverview Avenue

Brief discussion regarding a new footing system being used by applicant, not covered in original application. Applicant explained and commission agreed that new system is superior and has less impact than previously approved method.

Informal Discussion (MWRA Tunnel test borings)

Property Location: 222 South Street, 92 Felton Street, Chapel Road.

Appearing for MWRA: Colleen Rizzi, Mike Gove, Vivian Chan. Ms. Rizzi gave a presentation to explain MWRA project: 14 miles of new deep rock water supply tunnel to be built in the area, with some sections under Waltham. Up to 400' deep. Project is in early stages. Three locations to be used in Waltham for test borings: 222 South Street, 92 Felton Street, Chapel Road (Fernald). This is primarily exempt activity. Commission reviewed maps and confirmed that Chapel site is out of jurisdiction while Felton raises no concerns. 222 South is in jurisdiction and has issues with Stanley Elementary School, which constrains project. Planned to run approximately 10 weeks. Commission concerned with disruption and removal at site even though most of area is within MWRA easement. Maximum disturbed area per MWRA is about 2000 sq.ft. and removal of maximum of 30 small, opportunistic trees. Mr. Doyle added historical information on area from Stanley School project. Mr. Moser recommends that an NOI is procedurally appropriate and should be filed. Commission recommended reseeding on easement (trees and shrubs are not allowed per easement). MWRA was amenable to this. Discussion of exempt activities, commission jurisdiction, time constraints due to agreement with school committee to complete boring before school resumes in September. Commission will schedule a site visit with MWRA and will discuss further at next meeting.

Commission Business

- Approval of meeting minutes from 4-8-2021. Motion to approve made by Mr. Donovan, seconded by Mr. Dufromont. **Minutes approved.**
- Update on filing fee projects. No updates.
- Storer Conservation Land Encroachment. Letter sent to encroachers by Law Department with 1-month deadline, which has now passed. Replies have not been received.
- Storer Conservation Land Management Plan. No updates. Mr. Baker asked for permission to reach out to city employees, via the DPW, Rec Department, or Mayor's office, for volunteer help with the Wisteria removal project, which has so far had great success but needs to be seen to completion. Commission agreed.

Correspondence

- Mass Wildlife letter regarding public comment notice. Informational.
- 411 Waverly Oaks SEIR. Appears to be informational only at this time. Will follow up.

Old Business

- None

Approved 6-10-2021

Site Visit Reports

- Charles River bridge trestle status. 154 BEF River Street. Mr. Moser visited Early footbridge re-decking site and noticed issues at this adjacent property from a project approved about 5 years ago. Commission reviewed photos and discussed. Will send letter to property owner with requests and recommendations. Letter will include offer to have volunteers plant some items per Mr. Baker's request.

Committee Reports

- **CPC:** Next meeting is June 8, 2021.
- **Trust Fund:** Potential purchases of land, easements, or conservation restrictions using trust funds. No updates.

New Business

- No new business.

Mr. Donovan motioned to adjourn. Mr. Dufromont seconded. **Motion approved.**

Meeting adjourned at 9:21 PM.