



**Waltham Conservation Commission
June 10, 2021
Meeting Minutes**

Meeting called to order at 7:02.

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

Absent: Bradley Baker

Public Hearing (Continued from 5-27-2021)

Notice of Intent (DEP File # 316-0787)

Applicant: Douglas Drohan

Property Location: 459 Lexington Street

Project Description: Kitchen addition

Mr. Drohan had been asked to continue from previous hearing to provide updated plan showing wetlands buffer and riverfront zone lines. Plan has been provided to Commission. Discussion of placement of infiltration tank installation (satisfactory to commission) and size of project (within allowed limits). No public comment made. Motion to close hearing by Mr. Doyle, seconded by Mr. Donovan. **Motion approved.** Motion to approve with standard Special Order of Conditions by Mr. Doyle, seconded by Mr. Donovan. **Motion passed.**

Public Meeting

Request for Certificate of Compliance (DEP File # 316-0771)

Applicant: Matthew Lyons

Property Location: 74 Oakley Lane

Robert Bibbo appeared for the applicant. Mr. Bibbo explained changes to the work. The result was less work than approved: no second story built, no fence was installed on the north side (several arbor vitae were planted instead), LP tanks were not installed, AC was not installed, existing AC was raised above floodplain level. Existing patio was repaired with flagstones. Commission agreed that this substantially complies with Order of Conditions. Commission agreed to attach to file Mr. Bibbo's previous letter detailing the changes listed above. Motion to approve certificate of compliance by Mr. Doyle, seconded by Mr. Dufromont. **Motion passed.**

Informal Discussion (MWRA Tunnel test borings. Continued from 5-27-2021)

Property Location: 222 South Street

Approved 6-24-2021

Colleen Rizzi appeared for MWRA. Mike Gove and Vivian Chan also present. Project is under a time constraint of the return of school on 8-31-2021 (previously agreed to with Waltham School Department). Ms. Rizzi and Mr. Moser discussed site visit made earlier this week. Trees planned for removal are invasive. Easement replanting will use standard seed mix. Areas outside easement will use a woodland seed mix. Main discussion around the fact that this work is primarily in MWRA easement and should be exempt from NOI process. Mr. Moser agreed with this assessment. Only one tree outside of the easement will be removed, and MWRA has agreed to plant two replacements and reseed area. Noted that the easement should be maintained better in the future to prevent growth, and that if a clearing of the full easement through Waltham is anticipated then an NOI should be filed. Additional discussion. Mr. Gove noted that many municipal conservation commissions use an expedited process for this kind of project. Mr. Doyle agreed and used gas company easement maintenance as an example. Commission is in agreement. Motion from Mr. Doyle to authorize chairman to respond to MWRA with a letter approving these actions without an NOI, seconded by Mr. Deveau. **Motion passed.**

Ms. Rizzi noted that MWRA will keep the commission informed as the project proceeds.

Commission Business

- Approval of meeting minutes from 4-29-2021 and 5-27-2021. Motion to approve made by Mr. Donovan, seconded by Mr. Deveau. **Minutes approved.**
- Update on filing fee projects. No updates.
- Storer Conservation Land Encroachment. No update.
- Storer Conservation Land Management Plan. No update.

Correspondence

- None.

Old Business

- None.

Site Visit Reports

- None reported.

Committee Reports

- **CPC:** Mr. Doyle reported on two projects from the most recent CPC meeting: HVAC project at French American Victory Club (approved) and roof repair at a Housing Authority site (approved). Next meeting is September 14, 2021.
- **Trust Fund:** Potential purchases of land, easements, or conservation restrictions using trust funds. September goal to address.

New Business

- Mr. Moser summarized presentation of Commission budget request to City Council Finance Committee (6-10-21). Positive response received, including for hiring a Conservation Agent.
- 78 Hardy Pond Road enforcement order remains outstanding and needs site visit. Mr. Moser will follow up with property owner next week to schedule.

- Discussion of return to in-person meetings as state of emergency and related orders are lifted. Regarding state and city guidance (if such exists) for masks, distancing, vaccination status, etc.; whether in-person meetings will be required or optional and through what date; possibility of hybrid in-person/remote meetings; etc. All note that remote meetings have had better participation, saved time, allowed better presentations, brought reliable recording and posting of meetings, and other positives. The idea of eventually having hybrid meetings with audio-visual capabilities that retain the advantages was discussed. A disadvantage has been a delay in processing paperwork which requires signatures. The possibility of using DocuSign or another secure electronic signature option was raised. The city is not yet capable of this. Mr. Doyle relayed similar discussions on continuing remote meetings from the most recent CPC meeting which resulted in that commission voting to hold remote meetings through the end of the year, if the option is allowed. Mr. Doyle moved that the commission continue with exclusively remote meetings through the first meeting in September (9/2/2021). Mr. Deveaux seconded. Additional discussion followed. Mr. Doyle amended the motion to continue exclusive remote meetings through the end of this year (12/16/2021 meeting). Mr. Deveaux seconded. **Motion passed.**
- Discussion of the need for the Commission to sign off quickly on paperwork. By noon of Tuesday following meeting was suggested.
- Discussion of status of plantings at Mokema project (Graverson Playground). Mr. Moser last visited a week or two ago. The Commission will make a site visit before the next meeting.

Mr. Doyle motioned to adjourn. Mr. Deveaux seconded. **Motion passed.**

Meeting adjourned at 7:56.