



**Waltham Conservation Commission
December 21, 2017
Meeting Minutes**

Meeting called to order at 7:03 p.m.

Attendees: Chairman Bill Doyle, Vice Chairman Philip Moser, Brad Baker, Mike Donovan, Gerard Dufromont

Absent: None

Public Meeting

Request for Determination of Applicability

Applicant: PD Winter Street, LLC

Property Location: 850, 910, 920, 930 & 940 Winter Street

Project Description: Removal of an existing gas/oil separator, removal of a portion of the existing impervious parking area and for minor regrading adjacent to the proposed wet basin.

William Jones, Linden Engineering, represented the applicant. This project was given a negative determination by the commission in 2013, but it expired in 2016. The project never moved forward and they are seeking reapproval. They are separated from the wetlands by a stone wall. They will be removing part of the parking lot and doing minor regrading. The wetlands were flagged in 2011 and they reflagged them in February 2017. The buffer zones are all within a couple of feet of where they were in 2011. There is an old gas/oil separator put in in the 1960s and they are going to remove it. Cambridge Water Department sent letters of approval in 2013 and again today. The work will be an improvement in water quality. There will be a new drainage system and a wet basin. The wet basin is 6 ft. deep and lined because the reservoir level fluctuates. The biology in the pond provides the water treatment. Everything that goes into the basin is pretreated with proprietary treatment units. They will be aerating the basin.

Motion made by Mr. Moser to issue a negative Determination of Applicability, seconded by Mr. Dufromont. All in favor.
Motion passed.

Public Meeting (Continued from 12-7-2017)

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. Mr. Dufromont stopped by the site and noticed that the stone dust is starting to show erosion after 1 ½ - 2 years. He would like to see crushed stone put down in the entire area. Ms. Cooney stated that one alternative is to put down a layer of crushed stone if it's acceptable to the commission. Another alternative would be to restore it to grass, which it was originally scheduled for. She would like to see all of the acceptable options then talk with the city to see which they want to move forward with. Mr. Moser suggested planting shrubs and trees that wouldn't require maintenance. He also recommended a mix of grass and wildflower seeds. Mr. Baker is against putting down gravel and would like to see it as a naturalized area. Having low meadow plants would help with the biodiversity and be enough of a deterrent so people wouldn't be walking through the area and hanging out. Mr. Donovan would like the city to go back to what was originally specified in the Order of Conditions. Mr. Dufromont suggested putting in erosion controls to stabilize the area and prevent runoff over the winter. Mr. Doyle stated that if the city chooses to go back to the original plan, they can go ahead and do so without approval from the commission.

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

Public Hearing

Request for Amended Order of Conditions (DEP File # 316-0717)

Applicant: City of Waltham Recreation Department

Property Location: Graverson Playground: 16 Pine Vale Road

Carolyn Cooney represented the applicant. She noted that the Order of Conditions was issued in August 2016. Afterward, her company was contracted by the city to complete the working drawing phase of the project. They made changes to the grading and drainage to better utilize the park and improve the drainage. There have been no changes to the site elements. The stormwater management plan remains the same. The grading has been changed to slope down to a low retention area that drains into the original retention basin, which has been slightly enlarged. Ms. Cooney noted that the plantings will all be native with the exception of the annual rye. All were chosen due to their ability to survive and thrive in a floodplain area. The bittersweet vines will be cut back 10 feet behind the existing fence and removed. Mr. Donovan asked if they will go back at all to treat the bittersweet on a bi-annual schedule. Ms. Cooney replied that they don't use chemicals. They will mow the area before the fence and are hoping to get the trees and plugs planted and growing fast. Mr. Donovan asked if the baseball diamond will be kept. Ms. Cooney noted that there will be a new backstop, but there won't be any bases. Mr. Moser asked if the area near the trails will be fenced off. Ms. Cooney replied that there is no fencing going in. Mr. Doyle asked if the updated plan will go before the Engineering Department. Ms. Cooney replied that they have already approved the plan. Mr. Doyle opened up comments from the public. There were none. Mr. Moser asked where the water will go from the spray table. Ms. Cooney replied that it's designed in relation to the water table. It's a very shallow ditch.

Motion made by Mr. Moser to accept the changes as presented in the amendment, seconded by Mr. Baker. All in favor.
Motion passed.

Informal Discussion (Continued from 12-7-2017)

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

Eric Magennis represented Briar Glen. Mr. Moser stated that scientists from UMASS Boston have been studying the water at Hardy Pond for years and found there is a lot of phosphorus and nitrogen in it. The most recent study was of the culverts that drain to the pond and surrounding wetlands. The culvert from Briar Glen had the most phosphorus and nitrogen levels of all of the culverts that were tested. All of them exceeded EPA guidelines. Mr. Moser noted that there were conditions placed on the property before the apartments were built. He stated that bringing the levels into compliance is why the commission asked Mr. Magennis to appear. Mr. Magennis noted that he met with members of the Hardy Pond Association in February 2017 and he showed them their proposed fertilizer plan for 2017. They seemed satisfied with what Briar Glen would be using. Mr. Magennis is open to recommendations from the commission. There are four applications throughout the year starting in early spring and finishing in late fall. Mr. Baker recommended using nitrogen fertilizer only once a year, preferably in October or early November. Mr. Moser would like the Order of Conditions enforced for herbicide and pesticide use within the 100' buffer zone. Mr. Magennis will forward a copy of their 2017 lawn care program to the commission. He noted that the culvert in question only serves certain catch basins on the property, but also serves portions of an abutting property, so he is not sure where the high phosphorus and nitrogen levels are coming from. He will send a marked-up site utility plan drawing to share this information with the commission. The Conservation Commission has separately scheduled a meeting with the abutting property owner. After seeing what additional information can be gleaned from Mr. Magennis' plan drawing and the meeting with the abutting property owner, a follow-up meeting between Briar Glen Village and the Conservation Commission will be needed, before the start of the 2018 landscaping season. The purpose of this meeting will be to discuss how to bring their landscaping practices into compliance with the Order of Conditions, and how the quality of storm water discharged to the wetlands can be improved.

Informal Discussion (Continued from 12-7-2017)

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

The representative will be appearing before the commission in February 2018.

Public Meeting (Continued from 12-7-2017)
Request for Certificate of Compliance (DEP File # 316-0689)
Applicant: Robert Farrington/Windsor Village at Waltham Co.
Property Location: 976 Lexington Street

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

Commission Business

- Motion made by Mr. Donovan to approve the minutes from 12-7-2017, seconded by Mr. Baker. All in favor.
Motion passed.

Correspondence

- **East Middlesex Mosquito Control Project:** A response letter was received from Mike Bryant. It lays out the legal reasons why the project doesn't fall under the commission's jurisdiction. Mr. Baker is unhappy with this. By dredging something from the top of the watershed, anything that spills over and around is going to spread throughout the watershed. Whatever is taken out will be spread onto the banks which will suffocate everything and wash back into the water. An e-mail will be sent to DEP to ask permission if ConCom can hire this company to do the same work in the Chester Brook and Beaver Brook. There is a serious problem with flooding and there are a lot of wetlands there that have filled up with silt and sediment. Mr. Moser would like a letter sent back to EMMCP asking for their water quality plan given that they're not following the Wetlands Protection Act. We understand that the Waltham Conservation Commission does not have jurisdiction over the project. Our preference would be that they follow a process outlined in a Notice of Intent and the standard engineering practice. The following people will be cc'd: Tom Creonte, Steve Casazza, the mayor and George Darcy.

Old Business

Mr. Doyle

- No updates

Mr. Baker

- No updates

Mr. Dufromont

- No updates

Mr. Moser

- No updates

Mr. Donovan

- **Totten Pond Road Project:** Julie will follow-up with Steve and Ian in the Engineering Dept. re: the as-built status.

Committee Reports

- CPC
- Trust Fund

Site visit reports

New Business

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