



**Waltham Conservation Commission
June 21, 2018
Meeting Minutes**

Meeting called to order at 7:04 p.m.

Attendees: Chair Philip Moser, Brad Baker, Mike Donovan, Vice Chair William Doyle (arrived at 7:39 p.m.)

Absent: Gerard Dufromont and Courtney Semlow

Motion made by Mr. Donovan to take items out of order (until the Commission has a quorum).

Informal Discussion

- 146 Lakeview Avenue

Diane Cucchi and Ann Comeau represented their mother who has owned 146 Lakeview Avenue for almost 60 years. They hired a landscaper to clean up the property. People walk their dogs and kids fish on the property and they wanted to make the area safe. They cut down all of the overgrowth but most of the vegetation is growing back. Ms. Cucchi asked if she could plant flowers. Mr. Moser replied that they could plant native flowers, and they can get rid of the bittersweet vines and any other invasive plants that are on the Massachusetts prohibitive plant list.

A site visit will be set up for the week of July 9th.

Informal Discussion

- 250-252 Prospect Street

Atty. Richard Schoenfeld and property owner Haik Bechirian appeared. Atty. Schoenfeld noted that Mr. Bechirian purchased the property 1 ½ years ago and he was unaware that he needed to contact the Commission for permission to do work on it. Atty. Schoenfeld stated that the old steps leading to the Charles River were in disarray, therefore Mr. Bechirian had them repaired. It was a betterment and is helping to prevent erosion. Atty. Schoenfeld showed pictures of the current stairs, which the Commission members are familiar with. Mr. Moser asked for pictures of the previous stairs, but Atty. Schoenfeld did not have any. Mr. Moser noted that there currently is erosion of the stone dust on the side of the stairs and it is actively eroding into the river and it will need to be stabilized. It was recommended that a Notice of Intent be filed for the work that was done and temporary erosion controls should be put up in the interim.

Correspondence

- **Cedarwood Playground update:** Recreation Dept. Director, Nick Abruzzi, stated in a letter that the area has been restored to agree with what the plans originally showed. The Commission voted to issue a Certificate of Compliance once Mr. Doyle was present. Motion made by Mr. Donovan to issue a Certificate of Compliance, seconded by Mr. Doyle. All in favor. **Motion passed.**
- **FEMA Flood Risk Review:** The Commission was notified that FEMA is updating their flood zone maps and invited them to attend a meeting.
- **MBTA Right-of-Way Tree Cutting follow-up:** They are requesting that the Enforcement Order issued by the Commission be retracted. The request will be discussed and voted on the next time the Commission has a quorum.
- **Ice Melt along MBTA tracks:** Ice melt has been piled near the tracks. CPW is unable to clean it up due to it being on MBTA property. MBTA will be asked to store it better or to clean it up.

Approved 7-19-2018

Site visit report

- **Mt. Feake Cemetery:** Mr. Baker noticed there were several living trees tagged with painted numbers that are within 100 ft. of the river. He would like to not have them removed without the Commission's approval. A message was left for the City's tree warden asking for the status of the trees.

Mr. Doyle arrived at the meeting 7:39 p.m.

Public Hearing (Continued from 6-7-2018)

Abbreviated Notice of Resource Area Delineation

Applicant: City of Waltham Engineering Department

Property Location: 380 Lexington Street

Steve Casazza, City Engineer, introduced those who are on his team and working on this project: Mike Garvin, Traffic Engineer; Eric Carlson, Boston Survey Consultant Project Manager; and Chase Burnea, Certified Wildlife Biologist.

The wetlands on the property have been delineated. The Bordering Vegetated Wetlands are located along the edge of the West Chesterbrook. The buffer zone and riparian zone are also indicated on their plan. Mr. Baker asked if the wetlands are flagged. Mr. Casazza replied that they are. Mr. Doyle asked when the flags were installed. They were installed in May. Mr. Donovan asked what their next step is. Mr. Casazza stated that they need to proceed with the traffic design. Mr. Garvin will work with BSC to come up with a geometric realignment of Totten Pond Road. A public meeting with City Council will be held at 25% complete and abutters will be invited to attend. At 75% complete, the City will file a Notice of Intent.

A site visit has been scheduled for Tuesday, July 10th at 7:00 p.m. Mr. Casazza would like to invite the Traffic Commission and the Historical Commission to the site visit.

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

Public Hearing (Continued from 6-7-2018)

Notice of Intent (DEP File # 316-0736)

Applicant: City of Waltham Recreation Department

Property Location: 25 Hillcroft Road

Project Description: Improvements to Hillcroft Playground

The Applicant requested a continuance until the July 19th meeting.

Public Meeting

Request for Certificate of Compliance

Applicant: KW Waltham LLC

Property Location: 135 Second Avenue

Ara Aftandilian represented the Applicant. Mr. Moser attended the site visit on June 19th. Mr. Aftandilian noted that the hotel has been built and is up and running. There was a small replication area next to the wetlands. The plantings have all come in and are thriving. They will be supplementing the planting area with some grasses and adding two mixes from New England wetlands species. Mr. Aftandilian noted that they took Mr. Doyle's suggestion for I and I. They lined the pipe, continued it through the wetland, and found 150,000 gallons of I and I. He said that the City needs to adopt a policy for projects to work together. The Commission approved the removal of the straw bales and silt fence as the area has been established and stabilized.

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

Public Hearing

Notice of Intent (DEP File #: Not yet assigned)

Applicant: Tali Gill-Austern

Property Location: 157 Riverview Avenue

Project Description: Build a seasonal dock with a stairway.

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

Approved 7-19-2018

Public Hearing

Notice of Intent (DEP File # 316-0740)

Applicant: Chapel Hill Chauncy Hall School

Property Location: 785 Beaver Street

Project Description: The renovation of the existing "Barn" building at the CHCH School, expansion of the associated paved parking area and installation of new utilities.

Al Trakimas, SITEC Environmental, represented the Applicant. He introduced Gwen Pojasek, Chief Financial Officer and Al Umina, Director of Buildings and Grounds, both from Chapel Hill Chauncy Hall School.

Mr. Trakimas stated that they are proposing to repair and replace the pavement in the main driveway area. The driveway coming in from the southerly and northerly portion of Peoples Hall is going to be expanded in width for Fire Department access. The Fire Department required CHCH to widen the two entrance driveways for their aerial tower. The Applicant has to recharge 100% of the pavement area. The remainder of the work is outside the 200' buffer. The building will not be taken down: it will undergo a major renovation and be expanded. The site work will begin next spring/early summer 2019. Mr. Doyle asked if the main for the water line work is coming from Beaver Street. Mr. Trakimas replied that it is. Mr. Moser asked for the percentage of riverfront they will be developing. Mr. Trakimas confirmed that it is a 1% alteration of the riverfront area and they are allowed up to a 10% alteration.

Mr. Moser opened up comments from the public. There were none.

Motion made by Mr. Doyle to close the public hearing, seconded by Mr. Baker. All in favor. **Motion passed.**

Motion made by Mr. Doyle to issue a positive Order of Conditions with the Commission's standard conditions. All in favor. **Motion passed.**

Commission Business

- Motion made by Mr. Donovan to approve the meeting minutes from 6-7-2018, seconded by Mr. Doyle. All in favor. **Motion passed.**

Old Business

Mr. Moser

- No updates

Mr. Doyle

- No updates

Mr. Baker

- No updates

Mr. Donovan

- **Totten Pond Road project:** Mr. Donovan will write another letter asking for a timeline for the completion of an as-built plan.

Committee Reports

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

Motion made by Mr. Doyle to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Donovan. All in favor. **Motion passed.**

Meeting adjourned at 8:29 p.m.