



**Waltham Conservation Commission
May 14, 2020
Meeting Minutes**

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

Attendees: Chair Philip Moser, Vice Chair Bill Doyle, Gerard Dufromont, Bradley Baker, Michael Donovan, and Courtney Semlow

Public Meeting

Request for Certificate of Compliance (DEP File # 316-0721)

Applicant: Keith Manning

Property Location: 20 Lauricella Lane

Mr. Manning, along with Scott Henderson, represented himself to request a Certificate of Compliance for his residence. He complied with the as-built plan and added an additional 50 trees to the property.

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

Public Meeting

Notice of Intent (DEP File # 316-0764)

Applicant: Windsor Communities

Property Location: 976 Lexington Street

Project Description: Replace a section of sewer line, replace concrete walkways in two areas, and remove dead and damaged trees.

No representative was present to describe the project.

Motion made by Mr. Doyle to table the discussion, seconded by Mr. Dufromont. All in favor. **Motion passed.**

Commission Business

- **Approval of meeting minutes from 04-30-2020:** Motion made by Mr. Donovan to approve the minutes from the 04-30-2020 meeting, seconded by Mr. Baker. All in favor. **Motion passed.**
- **Update on filing fee projects:** Mr. Baker updated the Commission on the status of a proposal received from SWCA Environmental Associates. The Commission voted to go ahead with a requisition to hire SWCA. Mr. Moser will work with Michelle to submit the paperwork.
- **Storer Conservation Land Encroachment:** Letters were sent to ten (10) abutters of the Paine Estate Storer Conservation Land in February informing them of property encroachments onto City land. These ten residents were invited to this meeting to receive information and ask

Approved 5-28-2020

questions about these encroachments. Seven of the ten residents responded and six residents attended this meeting. One by one, each homeowner explained their situation. Mr. Moser informed them that no action would be taken at this time. He is awaiting guidance from the Law Department.

- **Storer Conservation Land Management Plan:** No updates.

Motion made by Mr. Donovan to untable the Windsor Village Notice of Intent, seconded by Mr. Dufromont. All in favor. **Motion passed.**

Public Meeting

Notice of Intent (DEP File # 316-0764)

Applicant: Windsor Communities

Property Location: 976 Lexington Street

Project Description: Replace a section of sewer line, replace concrete walkways in two areas, and remove dead and damaged trees.

Mr. Porter of VTP Associates represented the applicant to explain the proposed project at Windsor Village. The proposed project calls to replace a section of the sewer line, replace the concrete walkways in two areas, and remove 5 dead and damage trees. They also propose to plant 25 native shrubs and remove the multiflora rose bushes, which are invasive.

The Commission members asked several questions and had the following requests:

1. Ms. Semlow requests the use of a silt fence or orange fence instead of a compost sock. The fence can be staked instead of dug into the ground.
2. The Commission asked that the design be revised to address the bare soil between the sidewalk and the riverbank, and the erosion in this area caused by concentrated runoff from gutter downspouts. Mr. Porter agreed.
3. The Commission asked that the remaining erosion controls from the previous (repaving) project be removed. Mr. Porter agreed.

Mr. Moser opened the meeting to the public. City Councilor George Darcy and several abutters expressed their concerns with the project.

Councilor Darcy asked whether Windsor Village has leased the city-owned property at the top of the hill where private dumpsters, front-end loaders, structures, building materials, generators, portable toilets, and vehicles are being stored. Mr. Porter said he would have to ask his client about this.

One abutter would like to see more trees removed than the proposed dead trees. Mr. Moser let participants know that the Conservation Commission is not in favor of removing healthy trees.

A socially distanced site visit was discussed. Instead of scheduling a time for the representative, Commission members, and the public to meet, the Commission decided that during this COVID-19 time, it was best for Commission members to visit individually on their own time. The Commission will alert the property manager when a Commission member plans to visit.

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

Correspondence

- **Letter to MBTA:** Mr. Moser informed the Commission that he will be sending a letter to the MBTA in response to their Vegetation Management Plan and Automatic Train Control.

Old Business

- No updates.

Committee Reports

- **CPC:** The upcoming meeting has been cancelled. The next scheduled meeting is in September.
- **Trust Fund:** No updates.

Site Visits

- **Opposite 440 Totten Pond Road:** Mr. Donovan shared pictures of trees that were cut down near 300 Winter Street (opposite 440 Totten Pond Road) with the Commission. Mr. Donovan is going to investigate who owns that property and who may have cut down the trees.
- **Worcester Lane Culvert:** At the last meeting, Mr. Baker mentioned that he observed the gravel parking lot at the Worcester Lane Culvert now 4-6 feet closer to river, removing many square feet of lawn. Mr. Baker would like to see a copy of the as-built plan that was submitted when the Commission issued a Certificate of Compliance for this project. A violation may be issued to the property owner.

New Business

- No updates.

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

Meeting adjourned at 10:04 p.m.