



**Waltham Conservation Commission
June 8, 2017
Meeting Minutes**

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

Attendees: Chairman Bill Doyle, Vice Chairman Philip Moser, Mike Donovan, Gerard Dufromont, Brad Baker (arrived at 7:02 p.m.), Tali Gill-Austern (arrived at 7:02 p.m.)

Development Prospectuses

- **315 College Farm Road**

Atty. Bret Francis noted that the property does not fall under jurisdiction. It's a commercial property in a residential zone that is being converted into nine residential units.

Motion made by Mr. Moser for Mr. Doyle to sign the prospectus, seconded by Mr. Dufromont. **Motion passed.**

- **151-155 Bear Hill Road**

Atty. Michael Connors noted that the property was Pizzeria Uno which was purchased to be converted into a self-storage facility. There are no wetlands within jurisdiction. Cambridge Water Department sent a letter in support of the project stating it will be a significant improvement over the existing conditions.

Motion made by Mr. Dufromont for Mr. Doyle to sign the prospectus, seconded by Mr. Donovan. **Motion passed.**

- **225 Waverley Oaks Road**

Atty. William Proia noted that the commission issued an Order of Conditions on the property. It is an existing gas station and convenience store. The project is a redevelopment.

Motion made by Mr. Gill-Austern for Mr. Doyle to sign the prospectus, seconded by Mr. Baker. **Motion passed.**

Public Meeting (Continued from 5-18-2017)

Request for Certificate of Compliance (DEP File # 316-0689)

Applicant: Robert Farrington/Windsor Village at Waltham Co.

Property Location: 976 Lexington Street

Mr. Moser noted that the last time he was out there, there was a lot of erosion into the Chester Brook. There was a lot of rain this week. He feels the commission should send a violation notice at some point rather than continuing to wait for them to be compliant. Mr. Dufromont suggested setting up another site inspection. Mr. Doyle stated that the applicant requested a Certificate of Compliance but has continued their public meeting four times. Mr. Gill-Austern recommended sending a letter reiterating the items in Mr. Moser's site visit report and stating that they need to correct these items with new construction before a Certificate of Compliance is issued. If they don't comply, a violation will be issued. The field report will be attached to the letter. Mr. Gill-Austern will stop by for a site visit on Fri., June 9th at 9:00 a.m.

Motion made by Mr. Gill-Austern to continue to the next meeting, seconded by Mr. Moser. **Motion passed.**

Informal Discussion

- **Meadowscaping at Paine Estate**

Ann Clifford, Paine Estate curator, stated that the Waltham YMCA environmental entrepreneurship program group spoke to the commission a few meetings ago. She noted that the site they chose is near the parking lot in between the conservation and historic core. When she initially met with the group, Ms. Clifford showed them the north side of the parking lot where the Paine family had their vegetable and flower gardens and orchards. It is now being taken over by invasives. The meadowscaping group felt it was too large of a task to tackle because it was so overcrowded with invasives so they settled on the south side. Since then, a group of Boy Scouts and an Eagle Scout from Troop 250 cleared the invasives on the north side of the parking lot. They also recommended establishing a trail connecting the two legs of the Western Greenway which currently end in the parking lot. Since so much was accomplished, Ms. Clifford presented the idea to the YMCA group to work on the north side, but they prefer the south side. They have since worked out a compromise and the group will work on the south side. Ms. Clifford asked that the group not remove the established meadow grasses that are there and instead insert new native plants as plugs in the place of the invasives. She noted that they are not allowed to bring in any soil, but asked the commission if compost would be all right.

Motion made by Mr. Moser to bring in ~ 1 yard of compost material to help the plants grow, seconded by Mr. Gill-Austern. Mr. Baker requested that soil not be brought in, only good material. **Motion passed.**

Motion made by Mr. Moser to approve a seed mix to be put down outside the trail path with Ms. Clifford's recommendation. Motion seconded by Mr. Gill-Austern. **Motion passed.**

Public Meeting

Request for Determination of Applicability

Applicant: Kenneth Basque

Property Location: 65 Edgewater Drive

Project Description: Installation of a fence.

Kenneth Basque represented himself. He is seeking approval for a 6' vinyl privacy fence, 39 feet long. Mr. Moser asked if the fence needs to go all the way to the ground or could they leave a 4" gap to allow for wildlife movement. Mr. Basque replied that they could do that, however the wildlife will be able to go around the fence.

Motion made by Mr. Gill-Austern to issue a negative Determination of Applicability, seconded by Mr. Donovan. **Motion passed.**

Public Meeting

Request for Certificate of Compliance

Applicant: Nanette Bisher

Property Location: 136 Hardy Pond Road

Nanette Bisher represented herself. She acknowledged that Mr. Moser stopped by for a site visit. His concern was addressed by Peter Bemis, the engineer of the project. Ms. Bisher asked if there were any other questions. Mr. Moser responded that the engineer's response satisfied his concern.

Motion made by Mr. Moser to issue a Certificate of Compliance, seconded by Mr. Dufromont. **Motion passed.**

Commission Business

- Motion made by Mr. Gill-Austern to approve the minutes from 5-18-2017, seconded by Mr. Dufromont. **Motion passed.**
- Order of Conditions Revision: Continued until the next meeting.
- Review of Project Closeouts: Julie will do a mail merge on the letter that was drafted and send to applicants.

Old Business

Mr. Doyle

- No updates

Mr. Baker

- **Paine Estate Wisteria:** Mr. Baker stated that there were 5,000 lops done around the edges of the main Storer blacktop area in the first week and a half. He is now onto the second set of another 5,000 lops in the middle area. Once that is all lopped off, the plants are going to have to use lots of resources to grow new shoots. His concerns with having volunteers help is it isn't always a safe place to go since there are ticks and bees. He feels the maintenance should be done by professionals.

Mr. Dufromont

- No updates

Mr. Gill-Austern

- No updates

Mr. Moser

- **Bishops Forest:** Mr. Moser will have a letter drafted for Mr. Doyle to review in early July.

Mr. Donovan

- **Totten Pond Road:** Mr. Donovan believes the city hired a utility company to fix the water main break near the hockey rink. He noted that there are ruts everywhere from the heavy equipment. All of the erosion controls are gone with the exception of the stakes. There is lots of crushed stone and cones and it's a hazard. Mike Chiasson, CPW, will be contacted to have the area cleaned up. Mr. Donovan agreed to meet Mr. Chiasson at the site.

Committee Reports

- **CPC:** Mr. Dufromont gave the update from Tuesday night's CPC meeting. Asbestos and hazardous waste was found when the city was tearing down 20+ buildings at the Fernald. CPC approved \$891,000 to remove the asbestos and hazardous waste. There is water there with a berm holding it back. Once the work is done, they hope to revive the pond that is there and restore the area to open land. Three additional buildings will be checked for asbestos and pre-demolition surveys. The next item discussed with the mayor was the Wayside Trail. CPC authorized \$409,000 to be spent on doing the surveying and designing of the trail.
- **Trust Fund:** Mr. Dufromont stated that he asked to have the annual Trust Fund meeting continued until tonight. He noted that the commission has two funds: one is expendable (\$43,000) to buy land and the other one is non-expendable (\$36,000). Mr. Dufromont met with Councilor Bill Fowler in which he asked Mr. Fowler to ask City Council if the commission could have these accounts turned over so they can be spent on conservation projects around the city. Mr. Dufromont hopes to have answers by the next meeting.

Motion made by Mr. Moser to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Dufromont. **Motion passed.**

Meeting adjourned at 7:54 p.m.