



Town of Arlington, Massachusetts
730 Massachusetts Ave., Arlington, MA 02476
Phone: 781-316-3000

webmaster@town.arlington.ma.us

Conservation Commission Minutes 11/15/2012

Arlington Conservation Commission
Minutes
November 15, 2012

Mr. Stevens called the meeting to order at 7:45 p.m. in the second floor conference room of the Town Hall Annex. Present were Nathaniel Stevens, David White, Charles Tirone, Eileen Coleman, Curt Connors, Chris Naylor, and Catherine Garnett of the Commission. Michelle Durocher, of the Commission, did not attend. Also present were Justin Quattrini, Gayle and Mark Namchuk, Clarissa Rowe, Martin Gager and Dr. William Flynn.

7:45 pm – Commission Business:

White/Coleman motioned to approve the **11/1 minutes** with edits; motion passed unanimously.

The owners of **64 Wright St** were present to discuss the shed. They did get a building permit in 2009 for the shed. It appears that the Conservation office was not informed at the time, as well. Mr. Stevens informed them that they need a wetlands permit as well and they will file an RDA for the shed. Ms. Beckwith will forward them the application materials.

Ms. Rowe informed the board that the exploratory work at **22 Mill St** was conducted two days ago. She sent pictures to the board via email, showing that the room with the water damage is immediately (inches) below the brick patio. Most of the problem seems to be a failure of the waterproofing materials. The sycamore will still need limb pruning to remove the heavy ones from over the roof eave. The Tree Warden emailed his confirmation that this would not harm the tree. The dumpster at the rear also needs to have a curb moved and fence installed. Mr. Stevens asked Ms. Beckwith to research any regulatory reference to the tree pruning recommendations that are in use as a threshold for requiring a permit review (if more than 20% of the canopy is pruned, then it needs a permit). Ms. Rowe thought that the pruning could be done in the winter. Root pruning may still be recommended to help with the water infiltration, then fertilize the tree and the limb pruning is helpful to the tree as well. Large old trees sometimes get regular injections of hormones, fertilizers and fungicides. They will return with specific actions and file for a permit.

The Commission **cleaned up Meadowbrook Park** on 11/3/2012. Eight, or so, people attended and removed a fair amount of debris, such as candy wrappers, bottles, traffic cones, balls, and shoes.

Mr. Quattrini returned to discuss the **Hemlock St. conservation land** and review his edited proposal to resolve the encroachment matter. He presented the mix of seeds in the wildflower mix that he is proposing to use on the lawn area. He will also plant evergreens and red-twigged dogwoods as visual screening and to mark the wall location. Two marked bounds will be placed along the property boundary. The fence, patio and jacuzzi are removed from the conservation land. Large and mid-sized boulders will mark the top of the cliff, instead of a stone wall. Ms. Garnett presented a conceptual grading plan. The Commission decided upon a due date for the installation of the plan by June 30, 2013. Naylor/Connors motioned to approve the proposal as discussed, with the understanding that a written agreement would be reviewed and signed later; six members voted in the affirmative, Mr. White abstained in order to review the final version of the plan.

Ms. Beckwith reviewed a request from a consultant hired by the owner of **86 Coolidge Rd** to repair the existing deck (with no excavation of footings) and to install a bay window. The Commission had no objection to Ms. Beckwith issuing an administrative approval for this amount of minor work. She will also notify the neighbors of this work and approval.

Mr. White asked Ms. Beckwith to investigate when the stumps and debris will be removed from the **Arlington Reservoir** parking lot. The Commission had no problem with the use of asphalt grindings to repair potholes in this parking lot.

Mr. Stevens forwarded the notice that repairs at **Thorndike Dog Park** will include a new skirt of geotextile grid to protect the roots of the large oak tree inside the circle of benches. The dogs love to race around the tree and are exposing the roots. Garnett/White motioned to approve the installation of this system; motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 10:30pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Corinna Beckwith
Commission Administrator