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Conservation Commission Minutes 02/16/2012

Arlington Conservation Commission
Minutes
February 16, 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, Chris Naylor, Curt Connors, David White, Catherine Garnett, Charles Tirone, Michelle Durocher and Eileen Coleman of the Commission. Also present were Wayne Chouinard, Stephen Biagioni, Daniel Shine, Patrick Maguire, Tim Power, Jonathan Charwick, Chris Brown, Linda Cundiff, Bob Botterio, Joanne Veener. Ernie Guarino, James Glover, Elizabeth Karpati.

7:45 pm – Commission Business

Wayne Chouinard, Town Engineer, presented the draft project to repave a lot at **Hurd field** with porous paving and construct a rain garden to control runoff to Mill Brook. He is applying for two separate grants for this work. The porous paving is a grant thru EPA and the rain garden is thru MyWRA. If he doesn't get the EPA grant, then MyWRA might also have monies for the porous paving.

8pm – **Notice of Intent** – 0 Mystic St (behind 24 Summer St), Arlington Catholic athletic field renovation

Mr. Maguire presented the project to renovate the existing grass athletic field with an artificial turf. The 100 foot Buffer Zone to Mill Brook is in one corner of the field. The existing plants on the parcel are mainly invasive species. No trees will be cut, they will be left as shown in the landscaping plan submitted at the meeting. Berms will be constructed of the top soil from the field and sodded. These will be utilized as informal seating, as no bleachers will be installed. The turf system doesn't require any fertilizers or pesticides. The material is synthetic and porous allowing rainwater to filter through a stone under layer (8 inches deep) to subdrains that connect to an existing drain pipe along the east side of the field that goes into Mill Brook. These subdrains are constructed like a trench drain but the pipe is at the top of the gravel bed. The subbase soils will be compacted due to deposits of organic matter.

Ms. Garnett asked whether hazardous is present waste at the site. The site was a former municipal landfill, and historically it was the mill pond at Cookes Mill, and is presently governed by an Activity and Use Limitation.

Mr. Tirone asked what was the drain connection for if the system is designed for infiltration. The drain connection is for the overflow.

Mr. Naylor questioned the assumption that the post construction condition would be more pervious than existing conditions and if the correct curve numbers were used for the existing and developed conditions. The applicant described how the existing field is compacted due to foot traffic as shown by the muddy conditions.

The layout of the plan doesn't impede access to Water St and Buzzell field from the Cookes Hollow park.

Mr. Connors asked if the Soil Management plan was completed yet for the 21E process. The applicants will complete this and forward it to the board.

Daniel Shine, the athletic director at Arlington Catholic, recounted that the school bought the field in 1959 and in the early 1980s clean fill was brought in the level the surface for football.

Mr. Botterio, of 39 Russell St, reported that wildlife use the field presently and that use will not occur if the surface is artificial turf. He also asked if the trees and fence will be removed at the end of Water St. The applicants said that no trees will be removed with the project. There is no parking allowed on the field property.

Ms. Veener and Ms. Cundiff, residents of the Cusack building, have observed rabbits, hedgehogs and birds using the field. They question whether this will happen with the artificial surface.

Mr. Guarino, 24 Summer St, submitted a written comment letter as well as additional questions here. Will all the trees at the north side of the field remain? Yes.
What is the infill? After removal of the topsoil, geotextile is put down, then a layer of coarse stone, a layer of fine stone, a 1/4 inch thick pad of polypropylene and the turf. The turf is composed of polyethylene, crumb rubber and sand.

The board asked that MSDS sheets for the materials be submitted. The applicant agreed to submit those.

Mr. Glover, 23 Russell St, asked if use of the field was changing. The applicant responded that the field will have no sound system, no lights, no parking and no bleachers.

Mr. Biagioni, Arlington Catholic principal, added that the newly improved field may get the respect and care that is needed in this out-of-the way location.

Ms. Garnett asked if the field gets cleaned. The proponents responded that no cleaners are used but the surface gets groomed with a broom to unmat the pile.

The proponents estimated that the work could start in March, ideally, and take approximately 2 months to complete, mainly in the summer. They would like to have the field ready for play by August 1.

Ms. Veener asked if the artificial surface holds onto bacteria, since students spit on the surface and this plastic doesn't allow for natural degradation. Is this a health issue? Mr. Stevens thought that this might be a question for the Board of Health. The proponent responded that the turf doesn't act like a petri dish.

The proponents discussed heat of artificial turf surfaces. Older Astroturf was known to get very hot. Now, additives in the material reflect more energy to prevent this.

Mr. Naylor asked about runoff from the turf. He has heard reports from the Connecticut DEP that said higher amounts of zinc were found in the effluent runoff. Are there any projects measuring or monitoring for this? The proponent knew of a project in Concord and that this information could be provided to the board.

The rubber in the turf will have some odor when its installed and that will dissipate quickly.

The Conservation Commission will hold a site walk to this project on Tuesday, 2/28 at 8am.

Ms. Cundiff, of the Cusack Building, asked if there will be a pest control plan for the work. Mr. Brown responded that they will install have-a-heart traps during the work, for pest control.

Mr. Tirone asked how is the infiltration going to occur if the subsurface is compacted? The applicant responded that the subsoil will be leveled and compacted only enough to prevent settling but not sealed for infiltration purposes. Mr. Charwick will provide more detailed stormwater calculations to the board for review.

Additional information that will be provided to the board include:

- MSDS sheets
- stormwater calculations for pre and post development and to Summer St
- review of landscaping along western corner of project to include elements of the Cookes Hollow plan
- zinc measurements in effluent
- soils management plan
- specifications on the compactor or roller used on the subsoil

Upon submission, this additional information will be available at the 1st floor window, Planning Dept, Town Hall Annex.

White/Tirone motioned to continue the hearing to 3/1 at 8pm, with the applicants' consent; motion passed unanimously.

Commission Business, cont.

Elizabeth Karpati discussed the 2/27 Finance Committee meeting on the **Waterbodies** Fund warrant article. The Con Com will send a representative to the meeting, Mr. Tirone and Ms. Coleman will attend.

Ms. Garnett looked into the cost of erosion mats for the next round of harvesting waterchestnuts from **Arlington Reservoir**. They cost approximately \$2K for 12 mats, that are 4 feet by 8 feet each. It may also be possible to rent these. Mr. Stevens spoke with Karen Mullins at the Lexington Con Com on this topic. She was receptive to discussing contributing in some manner to this project. Their budget for 2013 is finalized and they discuss 2014 budget next fall. The Commission discussed possible non-cash ways Lexington might contribute: mats, plant hauling, plant storage, plant disposal. Ms. Durocher asked at the last Park and Recreation meeting and the new boat ramp is not on this year's budget. It may be brought up for consideration on the Supplemental Environmental projects list. The project could pay for the use of the conveyor belt.

Connors/Coleman motioned to approve the 2/2 and 2/8 **minutes** with edits; motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Stevens presented a new park plan at the **Symmes** property to be build where the parking garage was previously. The parking may be moved to the road. The Con Com asked if benches could be added to the design. Mr. Stevens will relay comments to the developer.

Connors/Tirone motioned to approve the issuance of the Certificate of Compliance for the **Mystic Lakes Dam** project (91-201); motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Coleman updated the board on the **Walking Book** project. The subcommittee will not pursue the use of the Wiki for this project at this time. Ms. Durocher will meet with Adam Kurowski, GIS coordinator, to discuss new maps for this project.

Meeting adjourned at 10:30pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Corinna Beckwith
Commission Administrator