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Conservation Commission Minutes 07/21/2011

Arlington Conservation Commission
 Minutes
 July 21, 2011

Mr. White called the meeting to order at 7:45 p.m. in the second floor conference room of the Town Hall Annex.

Present were David White, Catherine Garnett, Charles Tirone, Curt Connors, and Michelle Durocher of the Commission. Chris Naylor, Elaine Coleman, and Nathaniel Stevens, of the Commission, were not in attendance. Also present were Meredith Zona, Elizabeth Friis, Deb O'Donnell, Mike Rademacher, Pat Lieberson, Kelly and Mark Weber, and Brad Barber.

7:45 pm – Commission Business

Mr. Tirone held a site walk for the mobilization of the town's project to remove **water chestnuts** from Arlington Reservoir. There are lots of plants on the Lexington side. The access point, same location as last time, has a felled birch tree that is used to fish from. ACT will take new GPS coordinates on the acreage of the harvest. The storage pile will be nearest to the swimming area parking lot. The birch tree will need to be inspected by dam safety engineers before it can be removed. The project is on target to start at the end of the week of 7/28 or the following week.

Volunteers will be needed to complete hand harvesting by canoe, that small amount of plants that the harvester misses. This can be advertized in the Advocate and a poster/sign designed.

8pm **Request for Determination of Applicability** – Maynard St. sanitary sewer installation

Ms. Zona presented the project to install a new sanitary sewer line to houses at the end of Maynard St. to address backups and overflows to the stormwater system leading to the Mystic River.

This work is in the outer Riverfront Area of the Mystic River, within paved streets and one landscaped area which will be completely restored to present conditions upon completion of work.

The Commission asked that erosion controls be placed around all catch basins within the work area and that no storage or staging be conducted within 100 feet of the River.

Two trees in the work area will need to be removed and replaced. The Commission suggested replacing these with Green Ash trees.

Ms. Lieberson, while in favor of the proposed work, asked if there is a backup to the pump. Ms. Zona responded that there will be two pumps in the system at this location.

The construction should take place in October, with the replanting taking place next spring.

Connors/Tirone motioned to close the hearing; motion passed unanimously.

Tirone/Connors motioned that while the project was within a resource area, the work will not negatively impact the resource area so no Notice of Intent is required; motion passed unanimously.

8pm **Request for Determination of Applicability** – Old Colony Lane, stormdrain repair

Ms. Zone presented the project to repair old stormdrain leaks, cracks and collapsed connections. The stormdrain has a collapsed at the outlet into Mill Brook.

It is possible that the contractor will need to access the pipe end from Mill Brook, staging from the Brattle Ct pump station property owned by MWRA, if its not possible to access the area from the upstream manhole.

Mr. Weber lives at 33 Laurel St and is the other property owner next to the work area.

The Commission asked that the erosion controls include a berm/sock installed along the stockade fence line next to the Weber's property. The stormwater pipe work in Mill Brook should not be conducted during the spring high flow season. The contractor must contact Ms. Beckwith for an erosion control site inspection prior to the start of work.

Tirone/Garnett motioned to close the hearing; motion passed unanimously.

Tirone/Connors motioned that while the project was within a resource area, the work will not negatively impact the resource area so no Notice of Intent is required; motion passed unanimously.

Commission Business, cont.

Mr. Barber updated the board on the work to remove **phragmites** from Elizabeth Island. He met with Jen Ryan, the new steward from ALT, to coordinate the work. The plants have regrown only about %5. The dead stalks are bulky and there are lots of them. The wintertime cutting attempt was interrupted when coyotes took up residence on the island. Mr. Barber would like to cut the stalks with a gas-powered hedge trimmer in early August, in preparation for the fall glyphosate treatment. This must come in contact with the green shoots. He would also like to cut the green briar patch. Ms. Garnett suggested the treatment they used at Turkey Hill, which was to cut and cover with a tarp and possibly hand pull little plants of greenbriar. This seemed to be quite successful, up to 90% control.

The Commission suggested that Mr. Barber have a spill kit on hand for the gasoline.

Meeting adjourned at 9:30pm.
Respectfully submitted,
Corinna Beckwith
Commission Administrator