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Conservation Commission Minutes 02/07/2008

ARLINGTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION
 MINUTES
 FEBRUARY 7, 2008

Mr. Stevens called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. in the second floor conference room of the Town Hall Annex. Present were Nathaniel Stevens, David White, Charles Tirone, William O'Rourke, Catherine Garnett, Tim Sullivan of the Commission as was Associate Member Ezra Benjamin. Ellen Reed of the Commission was not in attendance. Steve Garvin, Brian Poisson and Dick Keshian were present for the 188 Medford St. Richard Kirby and John and Amy Anderson were present for the project at 37 Berkeley St. Bob Coughlin, Elizabeth Victor, David Bullivan and Dana Kelly were present to discuss potential work at 4-6 Herbert Rd. Chris Loreti and Clarissa Rowe were also in attendance.

7:30 p.m. - COMMISSION BUSINESS

The Commission is entertaining the proposal from the Cemetary Commission to allow for the addition of park-like memorials included in the redesign of Cookes Hollow. The RFP is still being revised. Ms. Rowe reported that the Cemetary Commission is very interested in this location as it is adjacent to the existing Mt. Pleasant Cemetary, and they have significant funds for expansion.

7:45 pm – 188 MEDFORD ST – REQUEST FOR DETERMINATION OF APPLICABILITY for parking lot redesign

Mr. Garvin presented the proposal to reconfigure the existing parking lot to improve traffic flow from the busy traffic circle. The work is just within the outer Riverfront Area to Mystic River (just within 200 feet of the bank). There will be a net 175 square feet increase in the amount of pavement. Therefore, the proposal also includes a swale, drywell and infiltration units to capture stormwater runoff from various parts of the site. The swale will be planted with Big Blue Lily turf which is a Liriope. The swale will capture runoff off the adjacent driveway as there is not curb in this location.

Mr. Keshian will forward a copy of the 21E report from the tank pull work on the site. The site was a gas station until 1977, after that, it was a Medford Savings bank, and is now being purchased by Winchester Savings Bank.

Mr. Loreti asked if Zoning review was needed since it was a non-conforming use. Mr. Stevens responded that it is an issue for the Building Department and he will forward the proposal to the Redevelopment Board for review.

Mr. O'Rourke asked that a check valve be installed to prevent groundwater flow back out of the infiltration system to the storm drains which flow directly to the Mystic River, and the applicant agreed to this.

O'Rourke/White motioned that while the work was within a Resource Area that the proposed work will not impact the values of that Resource Area and no Notice of Intent needs to be filed; motion passed unanimously.

8pm – 37 BERKELEY ST – NOTICE OF INTENT for addition to house

Mr. Stevens recused himself, due to a conflict of interest, from the hearing and left the room. Mr. Sullivan served as acting-chair.

Mr. Kirby described the project to construct an addition to a single family home within 100 feet of an isolated wetland in McClennan Park. Ms. Beckwith confirmed on the drainage plans, that there are no surface drainage connections to this wetland but an outlet to the stormdrains of the park. The Commission held a site walk on 2/6/08. The new work is proposed to be approximately 53 feet from the wetland boundary. The work will result in less than 100 square feet of additional impervious area. The homeowners will add two more rain barrels for landscaping watering.

Mr. Tirone asked for the staging area to be contained by the erosion control line, that any dewatering plan be reviewed by the board, that the erosion control be extended another 15 feet along the north side, that all fill be disposed of offsite, that the dumpster

be covered daily, and that silt sacks be installed in the street drains during this work.

White/O'Rourke motioned to approve the work as described and with the above conditions; motion passed unanimously.

8:30pm –WORKING SESSION - 4/6 Herbert Road

The residents have requested information regarding potential permit requirements if they pursue paving the entry to Lafayette Rd in order to have access to their driveway/parking spots on their lot.

Lafayette Rd is unpaved beyond Herbert Rd and is a private way. There is only one house at the end that has sole access on this road. 4/6 Herbert Rd has three units in the house. The proposal is to pave the entire width of Lafayette Rd to the end of this property.

Ms. Garnett was concerned about locating the property line to the adjacent state-owned land in the Alewife Reservation. This work should also conform to any work on the Alewife Master Plan and Greenway path projects currently being worked on by DCR.

The Commission asked if they could consider any kind of pervious paving systems, as this will constitute an increase in the stormwater runoff of the location in the flood plain. The homeowners expressed that they desire additional landscaped areas on the lot. Their parking spots could be repaved with pervious pavers. Someone suggested installing a swale or raingarden.

The board recommended they hire a landscaped architect to help with the redesign and permitting.

COMMISSION BUSINESS (cont.)

O'Rourke/White motioned to approve the 11/1/07, 11/15/07, 1/17/08 minutes with minor edits; motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Tirone relayed a request from Mr. Santini, owner of the Brattle St townhouse project, to the Commission, to regarding the environmental inspections for the rest of the winter. The board decided that allowing the inspections to relax from weekly to once every two weeks would be acceptable.

Meeting adjourned at 10 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Corinna Beckwith
Administrator