



**Town of Arlington, Massachusetts**  
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## Conservation Commission Minutes 04/03/2008

ARLINGTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION  
 MINUTES  
 APRIL 3, 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, Tim Sullivan, and Catherine Garnett of the Commission, as was Associate Member Ezra Benjamin. Ellen Reed of the Commission was not in attendance. Mike Rademacher, Town Engineer, Joey Glushko, Town Planner, Teresa DeBenedictis, Assistant Director, DPW, Michael Lennon and Marc Bellaud of Aquatic Control Technology were also in attendance.

7:30 p.m. - COMMISSION BUSINESS

Mr. Rademacher reviewed work that is necessary to perform at a sanitary sewer line at the end of Gould Rd next to Spy Pond. A pump is used to move the wastewater up to the mains on Pleasant St and is need of repair and upgrade. Some of this work will be trenchless by relining and regrouting the existing pipe but it will be necessary to access the pump and a few other structures and to add two new manholes resulting in approximately 20 feet of repair in a trench. The Commission suggested that a Request for Determination of Applicability be filed for this work as it is immediately adjacent to the shore of Spy Pond.

Mr. Rademacher asked the Commission if we had any additional feedback to convey to the consultant hired by the Town to review the FEMA floodplain recalculation. There is feedback that the City of Cambridge may challenge some of the variables used along the Alewife Brook drainage which may result in a lowering of the floodplain in this reach. Mr. Rademacher expects that the Town of Arlington will hold some sort of public meeting on the floodplain revision in the spring.

Mr. Rademacher asked about the control structure of Spy Pond and who owns it. Ms. Beckwith has this information on file regarding past adjustments at the outflow structure and that MassHighway owns the device.

7:45pm – NOTICE OF INTENT – SPY POND AQUATIC WEED CONTROL  
 DEP File No. 91-194

Ms. Glushko presented the project to control aquatic weeds in Spy Pond with chemical herbicides.

Each spring, usually in May, a plant survey and assessment would be conducted to devise a treatment plan, whether a whole pond treatment, spot treatment and what chemical(s) to use. The use of Sonar (fluridone) involves the entire water body since it is so soluble. Spot treatments may be conducted with triclopyr and diquat. Diquat is also used in pellet form on plant beds.

The Spy Pond Committee has a vigorous public education campaign involving a flyer being sent out in the town tax bill to residents of the watershed that discusses water quality protection methods by limiting fertilizers on lawns. A 319 grant for stormwater improvements of \$119K was used to install 22 leaching catch basins in the watershed in Belmont and Arlington.

Ms Glushko readily acknowledged that what is necessary is a Spy Pond Management plan in order to prioritize and organize all of the efforts to improve the water quality and environment of the waterbody.

Mr. White asked for a list of the management triggers for use of each chemical.

Mr. Stevens asked for a list of each chemical which had been used, when and what quantity.

Ms. Garnett asked that the management plan be composed and that the use of chemicals be reduced or eliminated as one of the options for maintaining the health of the pond.

Mr. Tirone asked if the pesticide applicator's license was dependent upon the issuance of the Order of Conditions. Yes, it is

necessary to have a valid permit at the time of the application.

Mr. Tirone was concerned if there would be enough fish escape cover when there is a whole pond treatment.

White/Tirone motioned, with the applicants consent, that the hearing be continued to April 17 at 8pm in order to provide a treatment history of the pond, list of chemicals to be used, list of management decision guidelines, and a public notification procedure; motion passed unanimously.

COMMISSION BUSINESS (cont.)

O'Rourke/White motioned to approve the 2/28 and 3/6 minutes with edits; motion passed unanimously.

Mr. White reported that the Cookes Hollow RFP is being edited by Dave Berry, Assistant Director of Planning.

An annual meeting of the Land Stewards will be held sometime in the fall.

The Commission is working to schedule the annual cleanup of Meadowbrook Park in late April or early May.

Mr. Tirone photographed the fence at Hopkins Road, and asked if the bottom portion of the fence was cut off in order to allow for small animals and amphibians to have access in the near shore area. It is a condition of the permit. Ms. Beckwith will contact the homeowners.

Meeting adjourned at 9:15 pm.  
Respectfully submitted,  
Corinna Beckwith  
Administrator