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Conservation Commission Minutes 04/17/2008

ARLINGTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MINUTES
APRIL 17, 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 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. Nathaniel Stevens, Commission Chair, came after the 19 S. Rindge Ave. project as he had a conflict of interest. Steve Mattingly of 19 S. Rindge Ave., Lexington attended. Leslie Mayer of the Reservoir Committee attended. Joey Glushko, Town Planner, Teresa DeBenedictis, Assistant Director, DPW, and Michael Lennon of Aquatic Control Technology were also in attendance.

7:30 p.m. - COMMISSION BUSINESS

7:45pm -WORKING SESSION - 19 S. Rindge Ave, Lexington, for tree cutting along shore of Arlington Reservoir

Mr. Mattingly presented his proposal to cut down two Norway Maples within the Buffer Zone to the Arlington Reservoir. This matter is not before the board as a wetlands permit, which was issued by the Town of Lexington (a Negative Determination of Applicability with a condition to plant native species), but as an abutter. The Town of Arlington owns the property on which the trees are located.

The work also includes removal of some small Norway maple saplings and replanting of the areas. Native trees in the immediate area are being impacted by the large crowns of the Norway maples and will benefit greatly by their removal.

Ms. Mayer, of the Reservoir Committee, suggested that in order to be compensate for the tree cutting that a contribution to the new Friends of Parks fund (with the money earmarked for planting trees at the Arlington Reservoir) would suffice. Ms. Garnett made an estimate of what two trees would cost, roughly \$250.

O'Rourke/Garnett motioned to approve the proposal by Mr. Mattingly and accept the donation for replanting two trees; motion passed unanimously.

8pm - NOTICE OF INTENT - SPY POND AQUATIC WEED CONTROL
DEP File No. 91-194

This hearing was continued from April 3.

Ms. Glushko presented the additional information requested by the Commission for review.

Mr. Tirone expressed reservations with the use of copper products as they can build up in the sediments and asked if this chemical could be avoided.

Mr. Lennon responded that copper is used to treat an algal bloom once it is occurring. Alum is used to adjust the pH and bind phosphorus in order to prevent an algal bloom. External nutrient loading is the source of the phosphorus, from dog and geese feces and lawn fertilization.

The goal of this program is to respond better to the needs of the pond by providing a proactive maintenance program.

Mr. Tirone again expressed dismay in the use of copper. Mr. Tirone asked for public notification when treatments occur.

Mr. Lennon responded that they post "closed" signs when the treatments are occurring just for liability reasons, not for use

restrictions.

Mr. Benjamin asked to see the Material Safety Data Sheets for the proposed copper products.

Mr. White reviewed the new information and approves of the content, but asked that at the time of each treatment that a report of the condition and determining criteria be provided to the Commission within 30 days of the treatment.

Mr. Tirone made a request to remove the copper from the list of approved chemicals.

Mr. Stevens felt that the use of copper should be a tool of last resort, but still available for use since an algal bloom is also a smelly, environmentally harmful event to the water body.

Mr. Benjamin also agreed that the use of copper should be allowed when algal conditions get very bad.

Ms. Beckwith added that the permit could contain a finding that the use of chemicals is not an ideal solution to the aquatic weed problem and that more work to control runoff in the watershed needs to be done.

Mr. Benjamin asked if the pesticide applicator has spill kits and a hazardous materials plan. Mr. Lennon responded that both are required by law through the state pesticide licensing program.

Ms. Garnett agrees with Mr. Stevens, but has reservations for the use of herbicides in Spy Pond. If the waterbody was contained within a natural watershed, then these problems might not be occurring. The pond is in an urban watershed with all its drawbacks of runoff degradation.

O'Rourke/White motioned to approve the aquatic weed control proposal with conditions for public notification and treatment protocols; motion passed unanimously.

COMMISSION BUSINESS (cont.)

White/Sullivan motioned to approve the batch control form to reimburse Cathy Garnett for the MACC annual meeting for \$90; motion passed unanimously.

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

The annual cleanup of Meadowbrook Park will be held on May 3 from 9-noon.

Mr. Tirone asked if the Commission would support a letter asking property owners to turn off lights overlooking Spy Pond at night. The Commission would be agreeable to such a proposal as it can affect the nocturnal habits of wildlife on the waterbody.

Mr. White announced that there was walk at Arlington's Great Meadows on Saturday, April 19.

Meeting adjourned at 9:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Corinna Beckwith
Administrator