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Conservation Commission Minutes 10/16/2008

ARLINGTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MINUTES
OCTOBER 16, 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, Ellen Reed, William O'Rourke and Catherine Garnett of the Commission. Tim Sullivan of the Commission were not in attendance, nor was Associate Member Ezra Benjamin. Bob Boone, District 4 Environmental Engineer, MassHighway, attended for the Rte 2 repaving project. Brad Barber and Luana Preston were present for the work at 76 Spy Pond Parkway. Eugene O'Neill attended regarding the work at 0 Spy Pond Parkway. David Levy, Director of the Housing Corporation of Arlington, attended for the 34 Forest St and 11-13 Peirce St projects.

7:30 p.m. - COMMISSION BUSINESS

Reed/White motioned to reissue the existing permit with the same expiration dates, for 0 Spy Pond Parkway as the original document was lost; motion passed unanimously.

White/O'Rourke motioned to approve the 10/2 minutes with edits; motion passed unanimously.

Mr. White reported that the next meeting to coordinate the work for Cookes Hollow, is scheduled for Monday, October 20 at 5:30pm.

Ms. Reed made a recommendation for having bonded plans for the landscaping work to be considered at 9 Brantwood Rd, which has a conservation restriction. Plans for this work have yet to be filed with the Conservation Office.

7:45pm – REQUEST FOR DETERMINATION OF APPLICABILITY – 34 FOREST ST.

Mr. Levy presented the proposal to maintain and repair the multi-unit brick building that is located immediately adjacent to Mill Brook. The building was acquired by the Housing Corporation of Arlington for use as affordable housing.

The existing chain link fence is in disrepair and will be removed entirely. The posts will be cut off at ground level, since they are imbedded into the existing wall that runs along the brook. A new black chain-link fence will be installed 1 foot away from the wall and will be 42 inches or 4 ft tall.

The existing paved parking areas will be seal coated and parking stripes repainted. The planting areas will be replanted with non-invasive plants. The retaining wall at the western boundary is cracked at the south end and will be repaired. The fence on this wall will be replaced, along about 20 feet of its length.

The trees along Mill Brook will be pruned.

The site will utilized tube-sock erosion controls that can still be useful on top of the pavement, or straw bales, as appropriate, for work on this wall.

The small ornamental tree above the retaining wall will be removed and a new tree planted on the 11-13 Peirce St lot. The species is yet to be determined but will be non-invasive.

The roof will be replaced. Mr. Tirone asked that the dumpster be covered at the end of each work day.

This building was built in 1966 and has no lead paint.

O'Rourke/Tirone motioned to approve the work; motion passed unanimously.

8pm - REQUEST FOR DETERMINATION OF APPLICABILITY – 11-13 PEIRCE ST

Mr. Levy present the proposal to maintain and repair this multi-unit building that is within the Riverfront Area of Mill Brook. The building was acquired by the Housing Corporation of Arlington for use as affordable housing.

The rear wooden porch will be replaced entirely with a new wood porch of the same dimension and footprint. This building has lead paint and therefore demolition procedures will be altered to accommodate this.

The entire window units are removed and the jams covered with aluminum. The dust generated each day will be swept up and the dumpster will be covered.

The concrete paths will be repaired. Plantings of grass and hostas will be refurbished. The roof will be repaired.

Reed/White motioned to approved the work; motion passed unanimously.

8:05pm - REQUEST FOR DETERMINATION OF APPLICABILITY – RTE 2

Mr. Boone presented the proposal to repave the Arlington portion of Route 2 and the westbound frontage road. This work will take approximately 2-3 months.

Mr. Boone sent notification to the Dept. of Fish and Wildlife in Westborough in September regarding the Priority Habitat designation for Spy Pond.

The brush along guard rails will be cleared as far as 30 feet behind. Catch basins will be inspected, cleaned and repaired as needed within the roadway. The large outlet to Spy Pond will not be worked on as a part of this work. Paved waterways will be repaired as needed.

The Commission asked for a pre-construction meeting to inspect erosion controls along the portion of the work that is in proximity to Spy Pond.

Reed/O'Rourke motioned to approve the work as proposed; motion passed unanimously.

8:15pm - REQUEST FOR DETERMINATION OF APPLICABILITY – 74 SPY POND PKWY

Mr. Barber presented this proposal to removed Phragmites from the shore of Spy Pond. The mass of reeds is presently growing along 30 feet of the shoreline in front of his property. His property is located immediately adjacent to the Kelwyn Manor park. The work will be conducted by Aquatic Control Technology and will involve the spraying of glyphosate with a small backpack sprayer using a cone to focus the spray and minimize any drifting. The treatment is applied after the plant has formed tassles which it has not yet this season and might not.

The proposal is for a multi-year program to follow up on the regrowth that will probably take place. After two to three years of treatment, the patch would be eliminated and Mr. Barber is proposing to replant the near-shore zone with native wetland plants. The dead stalks of the plant are left in place to shade out the roots of the plant and help to reduce the regrowth.

Ms. Reed will work to refine this replanting plan with Mr. Barber, as then this design can be utilized to other areas of the pond.

White/Tirone motioned to approve the work as described with the condition to develop the replanting plan more fully; motion passed unanimously.

9pm – WORKING SESSION – 28 CLARK ST – addition

The potential applicant did not attend this meeting.

COMMISSION BUSINESS- (cont.)

The maintenance items proposed by Carol Johnson and Associates, for Spy Pond Park are covered under the existing permit, except for the beach area work. Ms. Reed also asked that the Town use only Rodeo and not Roundup when controlling weeds

along the pathways, as this will be better for use next to Spy Pond. Ms. Beckwith would forward this information to the Park and Recreation Dept and Ms. Grossman of the Friends of Spy Pond Park.

Mr. O'Rourke drove by the area near the rotary at Mystic Valley Parkway and Alewife Brook Parkway to inspect for potential tree cutting near the Mystic River. No cutting of trees was observed within the jurisdictional area.

Mr. Tirone reported that he had no response from the owners of 218 Pleasant St to discuss potential work done without a permit along the shoreline of Spy Pond.

Meeting adjourned at 10pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Corinna Beckwith
Administrator