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Conservation Commission Minutes, May 18, 2006

ARLINGTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MINUTES

MAY 18, 2006

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 Ellen Reed, David White, Judith Hodges, Chuck Tirone and Timothy Sullivan of the Commission. Catherine Garnett and William O'Rourke, of the Commission, were not in attendance. Kim Barton, Mary Marino and Dan Farrell were present for the Dudley Automotive project. Elsie Fiore was also present.

7:30 p.m. - COMMISSION BUSINESS

White/Sullivan motioned to approve the 5/4 minutes with minor edits; motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Beckwith reported on enforcement updates, the Commission directed her to either conduct a site walk or issue a letter of non-compliance to 87 Mystic St.

The Commission discussed the lot at 21 Pond Lane, and the proposal to move a house to the open space. The board had no problem with using the existing parking area for the house, but not the wooded areas on either side of Pond Lane, as they provide a buffer to the bikepath.

7:45pm – UPPER MYSTIC LAKE, NOTICE OF INTENT for aquatic weed treatment

The hearing was continued from 5/4 for receipt of comments from DEP. DEP had no comments on the project. Mr. White added a draft condition that required the applicants to implement a program to reduce nutrient loading consistent with the GEIR on aquatic lake management.

The proposed condition might be: the applicant will design and implement a program to reduce nutrient loading of the Upper Mystic Lake by measures such as (but not limited to) minimal fertilizer use and the creation of vegetated buffer strips as recommended in "The Practical Guide to Lake Management in Massachusetts". Information of the measures implemented will be included in the applicant's annual report to the Conservation Commission.

Mr. Tirone and Ms. Reed expressed opinions that the permit should be issued for a shorter term than the three year standard length. Mr. Sullivan and Mr. Stevens both thought that the project as proposed had annual reviews and reports and that each season's treatment was evaluated for appropriateness to the weed coverage and regrowth from the previous year's treatment.

Ms. Reed reiterated that the forthcoming lake-wide plant survey, to be paid for by DCR, shall shed light on the situation and a potential management plan based upon this survey might redirect or refocus the need and/or appropriateness of this chemical-treatment program.

The Commission, upon closing the hearing and beginning the vote, established that the established quorum was not present for this project. The quorum will be reestablished for the next meeting, and the hearing was continued to 6/1 at 7:45pm.

8pm WORKING SESSION – DUDLEY AUTOMOTIVE

Ms. Barton provided a sketch of the lot bordering Mill Brook that included a surveyed floodplain line. The business on the rear of this lot is the BBQ barn. The proposal is to construct a larger permanent barn-like structure to replace the many temporary storage structures on the lot. The existing gravel parking areas would not be paved.

The Commission discussed that the new construction should not get any closer to the Mill Brook than the existing permanent building in that location. Stormwater treatments will need to meet DEP standards.

COMMISSION BUSINESS (cont.)

The Commission discussed tree work at Window on the Mystic. The tree department will trim Norway Maples next to the adjacent home. Ms. Fiore added that she has long asked that the small parking area, outlined by the wooden guardrail, have a curb cut to access it. They have asked for a canoe launch on this parcel and to improve the trails. The Commission described the recent work done to install stairs on some of the paths.

Ms. Fiore also spoke about recent flood events (May 15) and groundwater seepage at her house. She had three inches of water in the basement and this kind of damage is not covered by flood insurance.

Mr. White noted that the Arlington Land Stewards are conducting a plant installation at the Ryder Street Brook.

The Commission voted to convene at approximately 10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Corinna Beckwith

Administrator