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Conservation Commission Minutes, August 17, 2006

ARLINGTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION MINUTES

AUGUST 17, 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 David White, Judith Hodges, William O'Rourke, Ellen Reed, Catherine Garnett, and Chuck Tirone of the Commission. Timothy Sullivan, of the Commission, was not in attendance. Leslie Mayer and Don Vitters of the Park and Recreation Commission presented the path reconstruction project at Menotomy Rocks Park. Jane and Peter Howard and various other residents attended for that project. Kim Barton presented the 9 Dudley St Place project. Mary Marino, her brother and Sherry Greene were also in attendance.

7:30 p.m. - COMMISSION BUSINESS

Ms. Beckwith distributed draft conditions for the Brattle St. project for review by the Commission.

O'Rourke/White motioned to approve the 8/3 minutes with edits; motion passed unanimously.
 Reed/O'Rourke motioned to approve the 7/20 minutes with edits; motion passed unanimously.

Mr. White very graciously donated a copier/scanner/printer to the Conservation Office.

The Commission discussed the schedule of Town Day and attendance at our booth. Ms. Reed made two water-resistant posters for display.

Mr. White reported on the Ryder St Brook planting of native plants. He submitted a written report with photos. O'Rourke/Hodges motioned to approve the reimbursement of \$181.23 for plants from the Arlington Stewards Fund; motion passed unanimously.

Mr. White also asked for approval of reimbursement for sign materials for the Turkey Hill Reservation sign installation, for up to \$80, but he didn't have the receipt yet. Mr. Stevens proposed deferring this vote until the receipt was received.

8pm NOTICE OF INTENT – MENOTOMY ROCKS PARK path reconstruction and related work

Ms. Reed, as an abutter to this project, recused herself from discussion of this permit. She also is a member of the Friends of Menotomy Rocks Park and helped to submit this application and present the project at this meeting.

Ms. Mayer presented the project to the Commission describing the early stage of the proposal. Members of the Commission and Ms. Beckwith attended a site walk on August 16 to review the site conditions. The project is an approved capital project to address erosion problems along the path around Hills Pond and continuing up towards Spring St. A swale/trench drain will be installed at the base of the hill, just north of the "south field" to prevent water from collecting within the pathway.

Ms. Garnett asked for cross sections of the base treatments for the pathways, with consideration of the tree roots along the shoreline (possibly tree wells), and that the location of the swales should be shown on the plans.

Ms. Howard asked if the stilling basin wetland was going to be dredged. Ms. Reed responded that, yes, the dredging will occur, as part of the maintenance permit (approved in 2004) by hand and will involve off-site disposal of the sediments. Some of the plants will be thinned out at that time, invasives removed, and some of the desirable plants (cattails) replanted.

Mr. Howard asked if there was a priority list of the other related jobs included in this permit application. Ms. Mayer responded that the final list of approved items will evolve through the bidding process and finalized project design to be done this fall. The

Department of Public Works is also going to do some of the items as part of its normal maintenance schedule.

Mr. O'Rourke raised his concern over the path treatment sketch showing the stone edging. He recommended that these stones be keyed in to the subgrade, entrenched so that they do not wash right out, and that the stones be of considerable size so that no one is tempted to move them.

Mr. Vitters explained that the path system would be similar to that installed at the new Spy Pond park.

Ms. Garnett explained that the subgrade treatments can impact the root systems of the trees along the embankment of Hills Pond. The subgrade can be 1.5 to 2.5 feet deep below the surface to install a proper layer of gravel. This detail needs to be provided to the Commission.

Ms. Mayer emphasized that Jim Dodge, Tree Warden, would be involved with the site review of the path construction.

Ms. Garnett suggested that tree wells or path narrowing could be utilized to address these concerns.

Mr. White expressed the desire of the Commission to see the smaller path on the south side of Hills Pond abandoned and revegetated since there is a second pathway further away from the water's edge.

Ms. Reed responded that during the summer months there are a large number of vehicles (soccer playing kids) using this upper pathway as a road to the "south field" and the lower path is utilized by pedestrians as a refuge.

Ms. Mayer agreed to hold a site walk with the Conservation Commission when the details of the design are further developed.

O'Rourke/Garnett motioned to approve the continuance of the hearing to October 5 at 7:45pm; motion passed unanimously.

8:15pm NOTICE OF INTENT – 9 DUDLEY ST PLACE, commercial building

Ms. Barton met with several members of the Commission at the site at 6:30 this evening for a site walk. She presented the proposal to construct one large building in the same location as the existing building. There are several storage trailers on the site that will be removed. The amount of building area that will be removed will be 1520 s.f. and the new building will be 2336 s.f.

Ms. Garnett suggested that the proposal for a vegetated strip along the property line would be difficult to construct since the area was full of concrete rubble, gravel and fill at the base of the existing chain link fence. A short curb is also in place at this fence line and the slope of the ground is away from Mill Brook.

The owners proposed to add a lawn/landscaped display area for their barbeques on the Brook side of the new structure.

Mr. O'Rourke asked questions about the loading capacity of the proposed infiltration system and suggested they review the use of another system that can withstand vehicular traffic.

Ms. Greene asked if the propane tank was going to be moved or worked on. Ms. Marino said that no work is proposed on it and it will remain at the rear corner of the lot.

Mr. Stevens asked for a revised plan showing the proposed landscaped area, removal of the planting strip along the fence line, an updated design of the infiltration system (if changed). He also asked for a calculation of the lawn area compared to the increased building area.

Reed/White motioned to continue the hearing to September 7 at 7:45pm; motion passed unanimously.

The Commission voted to convene at approximately 9:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Corinna Beckwith
Administrator