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Conservation Commission Minutes 03/07/2013

Arlington Conservation Commission
Minutes
March 7, 2013

Mr. Stevens called the meeting to order at 7:45 p.m. in the second floor conference room of the Town Hall Annex. Present were Nathaniel Stevens, Charles Tirone, Catherine Garnett, Eileen Coleman, Curt Connors, Chris Naylor, and Michelle Durocher of the Commission. David White, of the Commission, was not present. Also present were Bruce Whelple, and Gordon Jamieson.

7:45 pm – Commission Business:

Mr. Jamieson is drafting a Warrant Article 11 to coordinate the Town Bylaws regarding **firearms**. His approach has three aims 1) education on the existing laws, 2) establishing a continuity of the local regulations, 3) establish and promote a gun buyback program. The board would look for Mr. White's input since he works with the Open Space Committee to coordinate this effort across all kinds of Town properties.

Ms. Beckwith will forward the attachments that Mr. Jamieson sent to her to the rest of the Commission.

Mr. Stevens reported that Article 20 regarding **transferring Town land** along the shore of Spy Pond to the care of the Conservation Commission was withdrawn.

Coleman/Connors motioned to approve the **1/3 minutes** as written; motion passed unanimously.

Connors/Garnett motioned to approve the **1/17 minutes** with edits; motion passed unanimously.

Coleman/Garnett motioned to approve the **2/7 minutes** with edits; motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Stevens provided copies of a letter from the Town Manager in regards to the access at **Arlington Catholic athletic field**. The Commission will ask Mr. White to review this letter and asked Ms. Beckwith to bring the substantial amount of file materials to the next meeting for review and consideration. The board also asked that Ms. Beckwith forward the last email from the consultants in regards to this project.

The Commission discussed the annual **transfer of funds** from our Fees Account to the General Fund to pay for Ms. Beckwith's salary and other board expenses. Tirone/Garnett motioned to approve the \$5,000 transfer that was made in November, 2012; motion passed unanimously. Mr. Stevens will ask Town Counsel for what each of the Commission's funds can and cannot be used for.

Mr. Stevens reported on the interest by the **Ideal Paver** company (permeable pavers) to come and give an educational and informational session (perhaps a bit of a sales pitch), anywhere from 1 to 3 hours long. Mr. Stevens will also ask Wayne Chouinard, Town Engineer, to consider this for his next round of Stormwater talks.

Mr. Stevens attended the most recent **Spy Pond Committee** meeting and will forward a final report discussed at that meeting from Aquatic Control Technology on the waterbodies that it monitored.

Ms. Beckwith forwarded information from Mr. Chouinard for a proposed stormdrain repair project behind the houses on **Sunnyside Ave**. The board would like to see a Notice of Intent for this work.

Ms. Beckwith presented a letter of request from the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority in regards to a water pipe replacement in the roadway on **Brattle St**, near to Mill Brook. They sent a lot of information with the letter, but the board asked for a larger scale plan of the area near the brook. Ms. Beckwith will draft a letter of approval and forward to the board for their input.

The Commission discussed the **snow storage** at the Arlington Reservoir parking lot. They asked if the Town had a snow storage and disposal plan. Ms. Beckwith will inquire.

The Commission received a draft plan for the trail project at **Window on the Mystic**. Some questions asked were: if woodchips could be used instead of gravel, how was power being delivered to the equipment? Mr. White sent a list of questions to Ms. Beckwith, which she will forward to the group. Mr. Naylor asked if more pins might be necessary in the timbers.

The **Walking Book** subcommittee reported that they are considering renaming the product that they are working on, to something more appropriate, such as Open Spaces of Arlington.

Ms. Garnett drove by the Mystic Valley Parkway **bridge replacement** over Alewife Brook and wondered if there was more tree clearing beyond what was in the permits from City of Somerville and Town of Arlington. Ms. Beckwith will look in the file and, if necessary, visit the site.

Meeting adjourned at 10:15pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Corinna Beckwith
Commission Administrator