

Arlington Conservation Commission
Minutes
April 17, 2014

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, David White, Catherine Garnett, Charles Tirone, Eileen Coleman, Curt Connors, Michelle Durocher of the Commission. Also present were Janine White, Mike Nonni, Bruce Wheltle, Karen Grossman, Karen Mullins, Administrator of the Lexington Conservation Commission, and Lexington residents Keith Ohmart, Mike Taborzynski, and Rick Abrams of Across Lexington.

7:45pm – Commission Business:

Mr. White and Ms. Garnett reported on the cleanup at **Meadowbrook Park** on 4/12. The side near Brooks Ave was pretty well taken care of but a lot of debris is on the side near Mystic Valley Parkway, and the sign is down.

Mr. Stevens reported that work to approve the **Community Preservation Act** is progressing with the help of Susan Stamps. Ms. Beckwith reported on an online survey showing increased support and popularity.

Mr. Stevens reviewed the past work on the **Walking Book** in an effort to revitalize this effort.

Ms. Beckwith asked the Commission if they had questions on the letter sent by MWRA on more **water line replacement work** at Brattle St. They asked when the work would start, what is currently completed, and what are the minor impacts to the resource areas?

8pm **Notice of Intent** – Mystic River Oil spill and cleanup

Coleman/White motioned to continue the hearing to 5/1 at 8pm to allow more time to review the final 21E document submitted by Clean Harbors; motion passed unanimously.

8:15pm **Abbreviated Notice of Resource Area Determination** – Lot E Dothan St

Ms. Durocher went by the site to take photos of the parcel after a rainstorm. She printed up copies of her pictures and will date them and report her vantage point from the road.

White/Connors motioned to continued the hearing to 5/1 at 8:30 to allow for the site inspection by the peer reviewer scheduled for the week of 4/23; motion passed unanimously.

8:30pm **Discussion** - ACROSS Lexington

Ms. Mullins presented a new project in Lexington to mark trails through open spaces and

conservation lands, funded in part by the Community Preservation Act in Lexington. Two circuits are completed, and a third is proposed in Arlington's Great Meadows. They are seeking the endorsement of the Conservation Commission.

They would need to install roughly 50 signs, 5 of which would be on wooden posts. The Commission suggested adding Arlington to the signs in order to promote inter-town cooperation on projects in the future. Including a portion of the Arlington Reservoir in this trail network was also discussed.

Mr. Tirone asked if we could use our cooperation in this matter as leverage to coax the Town of Lexington to help pay for cleaning up the weeds in the Arlington Reservoir (since half of it lies within the Town of Lexington).

Mr. Connors said that he did not oppose the ACROSS Lexington request but suggested that the Reservoir maintenance cost issue be raised to the Selectmen level, given prior lack of cooperation from Lexington. He did not believe it appropriate to hold up the request as leverage. Mr. Connors noted to Administrator Mullins that Arlington funds used to clean up Lexington's side of the Reservoir were funds that could not be used to clean up other water bodies in Arlington, such that Lexington's lack of cooperation was coming directly at the expense of those other water bodies.

Mr. Stevens didn't think we should link these two topics. Ms. Mullins also remarked that the more we promote access to the areas, then the topic of a financial contribution for the weed work may gain support.

The Commission decided to review again the letter Mr. Stevens had drafted to the Arlington Board of Selectmen on this topic and discuss further at the next meeting.

8:45pm **Discussion** - Symmes

Ms. Garnett reported on a large erosion problem at the lower park that is washing down to the trailer site. She may want to go to the Town Counsel if no one responds soon.

9:30pm **Discussion** – Spy Pond Park renovations

Ms. Grossman presented a plan of alterations proposed by Carol Johnson. Ms. Garnett will compose specifications and questions on who will perform which tasks. Ms. White also had questions of clarification (regrading to what elevation?).

Meeting adjourned at 10:30pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Corinna Beckwith
Commission Administrator