

Arlington Conservation Commission
Minutes
November 19, 2015

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, Charles Tirone, Curt Connors, David White, Susan Chapnick, Mike Nonni, Janine White, and Associate Catherine Garnett. Associate Eileen Coleman and Commission Administrator Cori Beckwith were not present. Also present were: DPW Director Michael Rademacher, Karen Grossman, Joseph Aluia, Bruce Whelittle.

7:30pm – Commission Business

Mystic 35 River Enhancement Project – Due 12/11/15. Chapnick gave an update on progress; permit application to DCR; re-focus text of proposal to emphasize restoration benefits to water quality, the environment, and the community.

Community Preservation Committee (CPC): Mr. Tirone of the CPC gave an update – the CPC will complete rules this year and try to run a few projects through the CPC committee: Historic, Park & Rec; and Con Com projects are anticipated. Mr. Tirone recommended bank restoration at Spy Pond with Friends of Spy Pond as a project to submit to CPC for approval (see further discussion below). There is \$750K in CPA coffers of Arlington money (no state match yet) from which to award projects.

Action Item: Mr. Tirone will email the CPC PowerPoint presentation to the Commission members.

Waterbodies Assessment – Committee met prior to Commission meeting.

Action Item: Waterbodies Assessment committee will present a summary report by next meeting on Dec 3rd.

7:45pm **Discussion** – Director of Public Works Michael Rademacher, P.E. on:

Snow Storage at Arlington Reservoir last year: Snow piles exceeded space at Reservoir last winter; got additional storage space at Church parking lot at Poet's Corner. Mr. White mentioned that Reservoir Committee received some complaints about snow piles, but no complaints about damage to the Reservoir. Mr. Rademacher indicated there were some problems with contractors but he will get better controls. They did protect trees and place silt socks as required. The snow was trucked out at the end of season (rather than waiting for it to melt). Mr. Rademacher stated that the visual barriers and protections were adequate. Regrading of the parking lot was also done.

Plans for snow storage this winter 2015-2016: The Reservoir is still under current permit (Determination of Applicability) from 2014 (3-yr permit). DPW wants to use the Reservoir parking area again as an option but is also trying to get an agreement again at the Church because it is further away from the resource area, grades away towards street, and is a bigger space.

VOTE: Mr. Tirone motioned to allow snow storage at the Reservoir to continue this winter season under the existing Permit / Mr. White second – unanimous approval

Water chestnut harvesting at the Reservoir this past summer: No report available as waiting for contractor to provide it (expected in winter). Mr. Rademacher updated: performed significant mechanical harvesting and had a volunteer effort from MyWRA – DPW got canoes to the Reservoir for this coordinated volunteer effort (some canoes still there because MyWRA will do this again in Spring 2016). DPW takes the water chestnut debris away (dried first) goes to landfill. Discussion that there might have been more water chestnuts than were harvested.

Windows on the Mystic – removal of trees on the edge of the Conservation Land: Mr. Rademacher reported that there is a property owner on the North side towards Winchester concerned about trees on Conservation Land as a perceived hazard to the home. They flagged 7 trees – Arlington tree warden did not agree that all of them were a hazard. Several of the trees were actually on the owner's property. Remaining trees were healthy and 1 or 2 were determined to be a hazard. DPW took them down as “public trees” based on tree warden's evaluation. Mr. Tirone and Ms. Chapnick asked that DPW keep Con Com notified next time any trees are planned to come down on Conservation Land. Mr. Rademacher agreed to do so.

Storm drain on Lake St & Rt 2: Newport construction using this as a staging area said Mr. Tirone and they don't do a good job of street sweeper cleanup on Lake St. Action Items: Mr. Rademacher will see the person from DOT and mention this issue. Mr. Tirone will call Newport construction.

8:15 pm **Enforcement** – 81 Thesda – Jonathan Rabinowitz

Email response received from Michelle Durocher, former Commission associate member, that Mr. Rabinowitz cleaned up what he had dumped. Ms. Durocher recommended we place “No Dumping” signs and then give him information on Land Stewards; she recommended we ask him to be a Steward but maybe just give him information on Land Stewards. Mr. Rabinowitz sent an email letter and photos to the Commission saying he was not aware that the land behind his house was conservation land and that he cleaned-up the limbs he dumped. Email response received from Michelle Durocher, former Commission associate member, that Mr. Rabinowitz did clean up what he had dumped.

VOTE: Mr. White motioned that the Enforcement Order was resolved / Ms. Chapnick seconded; vote passed unanimously.

Action Items: Ms. Beckwith to send a follow up email to Mr. Rabinowitz stating that the Enforcement Order is resolved. Ms. Beckwith to ask DPW to put up No Dumping Signs – including yard waste – 2 signs to be placed in area

8:15pm **Notice of Intent** – 111 Sunnyside, addition – applicant requested continuance.

VOTE: Mr. Connors moved to continue NOI hearing to 12/3/15 at 8:15pm; Mr. White seconded; vote passed unanimously.

8:45pm **Notice of Intent** – 71 Dothan St, house demolition and reconstruction – updated materials submitted by applicant, Joseph Aluia, including updated figures / drawings and a narrative question & answer sheet. See submittals. Summary of issues below.

1. Category of Reeds Brook: Ms. White and Ms. Beckwith checked StreamStats and calculation = intermittent stream due to < 0.5 sq mi watershed area; Chuck agreed that under the regulations it is intermittent even if observations are otherwise; Mr. White disagreed with this assessment (thinks it is perennial).
 - Finding: Reeds Brook is categorized as an intermittent stream
2. Same as #1
3. Same as #1
4. Economic issue narrative was added for justification of 2,800 sq ft (extends back footprint 6 ft from existing foundation)
5. Roof – proposed roof 276 sq ft larger; since < 350sq ft don't need drain recharge area (based on Town Stormwater Bylaw). If look at it as impervious area increases; the shed is being removed which is ~ 100 sq ft and some pavers in yard. Therefore a lower increase. Applicant agreed to a rain barrel for roof runoff as mitigation. Put in as a condition of Permit.
6. Landscape plan – will put minimum of 5 ft barrier of native planting in backyard near brook. Oxbow Env. will design and monitor landscaping for invasives. Mr. Tirone suggested that we don't need a monthly report – we need a management plan for invasives. Ms. Garnett and Mr. Nonni support the need for the landscaping to be treated and monitored for at least 3 years but if Oxbow says a different timeframe that would be acceptable. At end of 3 years, the Commission wants a report outcome of treatment and success of the native plantings as an additional Permit Condition. Mr. Tirone disagreed that a single family home needed to have this type of plan but he was not present at the site visit so agreed to defer to Commission members who were at the site visit.
7. Commission requests a planting plan for the Permit. Condition that Oxbow prepares a Native Planting Plan and invasive removal plan – landscaping plan to Commission by March 1st for Commission review and approval. Implementation of approved plan by Sept 1st, 2016.
8. See above
9. Stockpile area – shown on updated plan – in front of house as far away from the resource area as possible – acceptable.

Want to perform demolition in the next few weeks. Plan to have house completed in Spring 2016.

VOTE: Mr. Connors motioned to close the hearing/ Ms. White seconded; 6 of 7 Commission members voted in favor of closing hearing.

Additional Permit Conditions:

-Applicant must place at least one rain barrel for roof storm water runoff as mitigation for the increase in impervious footprint.

-Invasive Management Plan must be generated by Oxbow Associates or other qualified professional to describe procedures for removal and management of invasive plants; to include description of removal procedures and chemical treatments and duration of treatment, which may be up to 3 years. Invasive

Management Plan must be submitted to the Arlington Conservation Commission by March 1, 2016.

-Landscaping & Maintenance Plan must be generated to show lawn and native plantings with identifications of species of native plants, quantity, sizes, and location, and to include planting details (e.g., preparation of soil) and maintenance of native plantings. Landscaping & Maintenance Plan must be submitted to the Arlington Conservation Commission by March 1, 2016. Lawn and Native Plantings shall be installed by September 1, 2016.

VOTE: to Approve & Issue the Permit to be signed by 12/3/15: Ms. White motioned to approve & issue Permit with conditions to be signed by 12/3/15 / Mr. Nonni seconded; 6 of 7 Commission members voted in favor of closing permit with conditions; Mr. White abstained from vote.

Action Items: Ms. Garnett will draft Permit; Ms. Chapnick will draft Additional Permit Conditions. Ms. Beckwith will sign off on the house demolition at next meeting 12/3/15 since the Commission voted to approve.

9pm **Notice of Intent** – Brookside Condos at Arizona Terrace – reconstruction – not submitted yet; for 12/3 agenda

9:15pm **Discussion** – Spy Pond Park Erosion Control Project

Karen Grossman of Friends of Spy Pond Park met with the Commission to garner support for application of CPA Funds for Spy Pond Park erosion control.

Mr. Stevens understood from Mr. Tirone's report at last meeting, that the CPC wants shovel-ready projects with construction drawings and costs. Mr. Tirone said this type of project may be categorized as an Open Space project under CPA: Preserve (only for future) & Rehabilitate (can only use if acquired with CPA). Or, could be categorized as a Recreational Area and then Rehabilitate & Restore could be paid for by CPA funds.

Discussion of approach to the CPC and percentage of a design plan that needs to be completed prior to submittal of proposal to CPC and this Commission took place.

Commission agreed to support this project for erosion control as submitted by the Friends of Spy Pond to the CPC.

Action Item: Mr. Tirone agreed to make a CPA / CPC presentation to the Friends of Spy Pond Park on Dec 6th

Meeting Adjourned: 10:20pm

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Chapnick

Member, Arlington Conservation Commission