

Arlington Conservation Commission
Minutes
February 25, 2016

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, David White, Mike Nonni, Charles Tirone, Catherine Garnett, Curt Connors and Janine White. Member Susan Chapnick and Associate Eileen Coleman were not present. Also present were Jennifer Brown, Norman Gamache, Peter Hedlund and Bruce Whelple.

7:30pm – Commission Business:

Ms. Beckwith asked the Commission whether a **solar panel array** proposed over an existing parking lot could be considered an amendment to an existing permit on the same property. The Commission, applying Sect. 17 of its Wetland Regulations regarding minor project changes, page 21 determined that the scope and scale was not consistent with this being an amendment to an existing permit so the work would require the filing of a new Notice of Intent. Mr. Stevens also recalled the DEP's amended orders policy would also support the conclusion that a new Notice of Intent is required for the solar array.

On behalf of the Commission, members of the **Waterbodies** working group on February 22 led the presentation to the Finance Committee to support of the Warrant Article for funding the Waterbodies Fund. The Finance Committee approved the Warrant Article for \$50K. The Waterbodies working group also discussed proposals for assessment of the Reeds Brook wetlands that they had recently received.

Ms. Beckwith presented a request for a Certificate of Compliance for a dock at **22 Mystic Bank**.

Tirone/DWhite motioned to approve a full Certificate of Compliance with a reminder to the owners that the dock must be removed for each winter season.; motion passed unanimously.

7:45pm **Notice of Intent** –17 Mill St removal of three trees

Mr. Gamache presented the project to remove three hazardous trees and replace these with three non-invasive trees.

The three trees to be removed are: a box elder with holes, a multi-trunked American Elm that is leaning and a Norway Maple that leans over the building. The trees will be removed with a crane in pieces, leaving the stump in the ground.

Ms. Garnett commented on the replacement tree species, saying the pear is not desirable. Mr. Gamache offered to replace this with either a crab apple, black gum or another native species.

Connors/DWhite motioned to close the hearing; motion passed unanimously.

Nonni/JWhite motioned to approve the project with the condition to submit a revised planting plan; motion passed unanimously.

Commission Business (cont.):

The Commission deferred discussion on its draft list of **Conservation projects** to its next meeting.

The Commission discussed the warrant article for this year's town meeting that would use a portion of the **Mt Gilboa** conservation land where the existing house is located for affordable housing. This likely would involve a swap with other land such as a portion of Arlington's Great Meadows in Lexington. The Mt. Gilboa land is presently protected under Art. 97 of the state Constitution so a change in use would require several steps to remove that protection. The Commission will discuss further and plans to vote on whether to support this warrant article at its next meeting at 7:45pm.

The Commission discussed the project to protect the **shoreline of Spy Pond**. The Commission will present its application to the Community Preservation Committee on March 16 at 7:35pm.

The Commission will hold a **cleanup of Meadowbrook Park** on April 9 from 9 to noon.

Mr. Wheltle reported on site work next to 86 **Coolidge Rd**, on the open parcel. The new owners have started to conduct field investigations and brought a backhoe to dig soil pits. The site is so steep that the heavy machinery could get stuck in there. Ms. Beckwith told the contractors to access the area on foot and dig the soil pit by hand.

Meeting adjourned at 9:35pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Corinna Beckwith
Commission Administrator