

Arlington Conservation Commission
Minutes
May 5, 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, Susan Chapnick, Catherine Garnett, Curt Connors and Janine White. Associate member Eileen Coleman and Administrator Cori Beckwith were not present. Also present were Matt Salem, Ellen Reed, and Bruce Whelittle.

7:30pm – Commission Business:

Mr. Tirone / Ms. Chapnick motioned to approve the 4/28/16 **minutes** with edits; motion passed unanimously.

Symmes CR – Stewards Meeting on 5/5/16: Mr. Stevens reported that he attended this meeting and relayed some of the Conservation Commission goals for the conservation area to attendees. Also, he provided to the group leaders for their use and distribution a copy of the current Land Stewards handbook.

Spy Pond Park Shoreline project – Mr. Tirone expects CPC projects to come up at Town Meeting next week. Mr. Tirone will coordinate with Ms. Garnett and one of them will plan to attend Town Meeting when project comes up for discussion. Mr. Connors will also be present since he is a Town Meeting Member.

Water Bodies Article – Town Meeting: Mr. White updated the Summary Report from the Conservation Commission to include additional information on Reeds Brook impairment and the Carp die-off in Spy Pond. Mr. White / Mr. Connors motioned to approve the Water Bodies Summary Report update; motion passed unanimously. Mr. White will distribute the report to Town Meeting members.

Hills Pond – Notice of Intent for wetland maintenance – Matt Salem of Solitude Lake Management and Ellen Reed of the Friends of Menotomy Rocks Park were present to discuss NOI. This NOI has three goals: 1) reducing the extent of cattails using hydro-raking (mechanical removal) and subsequent years use chemical controls; 2) dredging sediment that has accumulated in the stilling basin outfall area (constructed about 20 years ago); and 3) install aerator pump in pond.

The following were recommended or requested by the Commission.

The Commission recommended adding special conditions for the use of glyphosate (the same as the Commission added for the Spy Pond Permit); recommended the applicant contact the Town Engineer for advice on how to handle storm water runoff; and recommended that the applicant remove the checkbox “invasive” on page 8 of Attachment A because cattails are not an invasive species.

The Commission requested details of the dewatering process plan, including sketches, for dredged sediments; requested name of reseeding mix to be used to reseed stilling

basin; requested Operation and Management Plan for maintenance of sediment accumulation; requested narrative on aeration; and requested a plan for invasive species control.

The Commission noted that restoring power to the Pond is important for this project (for aeration pump) and the future health of this water body, and that restoring power to the pond is a condition in an prior order of conditions issued for work in the park.

With the consent of the applicant, Mr. White / Mr. Connors motioned to approve continuance of this NOI to June 2, 2016, at 8pm; motion passed unanimously.

1167R Massachusetts Ave – Notice of Intent for solar array (Sunbug) over parking lot – requested continuance. Ms. White prepared comments on the NOI from the Commission, which Mr. Tirone forwarded to the applicant. At the applicant's request, Mr. White / Mr. Connors motioned to approve the continuance to June 2, 2016, at 7:45pm; motion passed unanimously.

Discussion – Extension Request for **Permit #91-185 aquatic weed control at Upper Mystic Lakes**, Parker Rd residences. Matt Salem of Solitude Lake Management presented the request for extension of the permit, which expires on June 2, 2016. The Commission discussed the use of chemical control for invasive plants and requested the applicant provide all annual "Project Completion Reports" as required by the current permit, since the last report available was 2012. Several Commission members brought up Special Condition #27 of the permit, which requires the applicant to "design and implement a program to reduce nutrient loading of the Upper Mystic Lake" and Finding #3, which states that the "Commission sees the need to explore and pursue longer term solutions to the invasive aquatic vegetation in this waterbody which would obviate the need for chemical control."

The Commission checked its Wetland Regulations which requires a new NOI if the original permit is greater than 6 years old. Since the original permit was granted in 2006, extended in 2009, and then extended under the state Permit Extension Acts of 2010 and 2012 to 2016, the Commission concluded that the applicant must apply for a new permit and cannot be granted an extension.

Commission business, cont'd:

Mr. Tirone reported on several issues that came to the Conservation Commission office the prior week including a deck at Beverly Road, update on Coolidge Rd test pit, and report of winter moth caterpillar damage to trees near Spy Pond at 25 Gould Rd. Mr. Nonni recommended that biocides, such as BT, can be safely used to control the winter moth caterpillars. Mr. Tirone will contact the resident with this information.

Meeting adjourned at 9:40pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Chapnick