

Community Preservation Act Committee

Meeting Minutes

January 31, 2017

7:30 pm

Lyons Hearing Room, Town Hall 2nd Floor (*recorded by ACMi)

In attendance were: Andrew Bengtson
Clarissa Rowe
Charles Tirone
Kin Lau
JoAnn Robinson
Richard Murray
Leslie Mayer

Not in attendance: Devy Levy
Eric Helmuth

Also in attendance: Jim Feeney
Amy Fidalgo

1. **Introduction:** Clarissa Rowe opened the meeting at 7:30pm and explained that the Community Preservation Act Committee has been looking at applicants' funding requests for the past few months, and have requested presentations from all applicants to discuss their FY18 Request for Funding. Presentations will be made by the Conservation Commission, the Park and Recreation Commission, and Mystic River Watershed Association this evening. Presentations will continue tomorrow night, and Thursday night of this week.
2. **Presentation of Spy Pond Edge Erosion Control Project:** Nat Strosberg, Senior Planner from the Planning and Community Development Department introduced himself and Nathaniel Stevens, Chairman of the Conservation Commission. Mr. Strosberg summarized the Spy Pond Edge and Erosion Control Project for the Committee, which requests \$552,000 to rehabilitate failed shorelines throughout Spy Pond. Mr. Strosberg presented the existing conditions of the Spy Pond shoreline, outlined the project goals, as well as the timeline for the project.

Mr. Stevens said that the contingency budget was increased from 10% to 15% based on suggestion from the Committee. Leslie Mayer asked if the DPW was in the loop about what is happening with this project, and what the expectations would be from them moving forward. Mr. Stevens said that staff from the DPW attended working group sessions hosted by the Conservation Commission, and they have received a letter of support from Wayne Chouinard, Town Engineer. Leslie Mayer inquired about ongoing maintenance management, and said that there needs to be a buy in for what should be done and how it will be done.

Kin Lau asked for clarification on the uncontrolled shoreline use. Mr. Stevens said that they hope to redirect the paths to control use in certain areas. The paths will help to manage the access people have to the shore in a way that won't damage the shoreline. The Committee discussed how to use fencing and plants to encourage people to access certain areas. Andrew Bengtson asked how long it would take for the vegetation to grown in to those spots. Mr. Stevens said the treatment would be similar to what was done at Fresh Pond. Temporary fencing is sometimes

used to allow the plants to grow without being damaged. Chuck Tirone added that coir fascines will last 5-7 years. Chuck Tirone said that the same process is available for residents to deal with erosion problems at the edge of their property and the Conservation Commission is happy to help them with this process.

Karen Grossman of the Friends of Spy Pond Park asked about an educational component to this project. She said there was talk of a kiosk, or being able to advise visitors in some way why we were doing the project and the value of preserving the shoreline.

Don Vitters of the Arlington Park and Recreation Commission said this part of the project is still at a concept level right now. There needs to be an interim step to look at plant material, and what trees need to be removed, and how that coordinates with the design within these areas. Mr. Stevens said that there will be one or two more public meetings, and further meetings for the working group to discuss schematics. The Conservation Commission hasn't started the contract documents yet.

Richard Norcross of the Friends of Spy Pond Park asked about the dramatic water level changes that have occurred around the pond lately. Mr. Stevens said that the water level can be adjusted 4-5 inch increments in certain areas. The outlet can be controlled, and has been, but pond level management is not part of this particular project.

- 3. Presentation for Arlington Reservoir Survey and Master Plan:** Jon Marshall, Director of Recreation presented the funding application for the Arlington Reservoir Survey and Master Plan. Mr. Marshall explained that this is a collaborative project looking to work with the Conservation Commission and Vision 2020 Reservoir Committee. Mr. Marshall outlined the goals of the project and onsite issues such as erosion, path degradation, and aging infrastructure.

Richard Murray asked what the total cost will be for this project. Leslie Mayer said that for recreational and ecological components of the project could be around 1m or more. The infrastructure of the beach alone at the beginning was estimated at around \$650k. Richard Murray asked if Lexington would be involved with this project. Leslie Mayer said that Arlington would involve Lexington since part of the land is in Lexington, but since Arlington owns the land they would need to pay for the cost of the project.

Don Vitters and Leslie Mayer discussed sources of funding for this project, including capital funds, and state and federal money for water bodies. Chuck Tirone asked if the survey was going to identify funding sources and define what sources would be appropriate on various aspects of the project. He added that the Conservation Commission will be happy that there is access to the pond in this plan. Mr. Vitters added that the Park and Recreation Commission would welcome input from the Conservation Commission regarding sources of funding.

David White of the Vision 2020 Reservoir Committee said that this is the time to take a look at the dam. Ann LeRoy, Chair of Open Space Committee, said that the Open Space Plan that is in place supports many of these issues. She added that the Open Space Committee supports this application, and that the recreation and infrastructure are critical but an ecological should certainly be kept in mind.

- 4. Presentation for the Mill Brook and Wellington Park Pilot:** Amber Christofferson and Patrick Herron presented their application on behalf of the Mystic River Watershed Association (MyRWA). Ms. Christofferson discussed the history of MyRWA, the layout of the Mill Brook, and how the small scale waterway could be utilized more effectively. If this application gets funded, the focus of the study area will be Wellington Park. Wellington Park is a lot of open space that is underutilized and often times overlooked by residents. Ms. Christofferson discussed the goals and desired outcomes of improving the space, which include making a community-driven plan to redesign and activate the Town-owned park, as well as restoring and enhancing the path between Grove and Brattle.

Chuck Tirone asked if MyRWA has talked to the abutters about what permissions need to be granted before this work can be done. Ms. Christofferson said they are waiting for technical components to be available before presenting a plan to abutters. She added that once you start improving Wellington Park and opening up the space it will make more sense to the abutters what the goals of this project will be.

Mr. White said it would be nice to make this more accessible for passive recreation.

Ms. LeRoyer provided a history of the various Mill Brook Park studies that have been conducted over various years. She added that it is wonderful that all these ideas are coming together and that MyRWA is looking at this parcel for improvement.

Leslie Mayer added that there is a placeholder in the Capital Plan for the Park and Recreation Commission to work on Wellington Park. The Park and Recreation Commission wasn't going to be able to perform a lot of cleanup since that area was so overgrown. This pilot project would almost act as a feasibility study for the Park and Recreation Commission to use for future capital planning requests.

- 5. Meeting adjourned at 9:00pm.**