

Arlington Conservation Commission
Minutes
February 16, 2017

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 Chair Nathaniel Stevens, Commissioners Mike Nonni, Charles Tirone, Susan Chapnick, and David White, and Associate members Eileen Coleman and Catherine Garnett. Not present were Commissioners Janine White and Curt Connors. Also present were Bruce Whelittle, Nadine Elowe, D. Carr, Town Engineer Bill Copithorne, Brian Butler, Nelson P. Oliveira and Peter Gammie.

7:30pm **Commission Business:**

Arlington Conservation Commission has been invited to co-sign the CPC application submitted by the Mystic River Watershed Association for the Mill Brook Study. Chuck Tirone described the proposal which includes improving Wellington Park and identifying and ranking illicit discharges to the Mill Brook. DWhite/Chapnick motioned to endorse the application; motion passed unanimously.

Discussed a memo received from Assistant Town Manager Jim Feeney asking the the Conservation Commission to appoint a representative to the Working Group for Maintenance of (Town) Public Lands. Tirone/Nonni motioned to appoint David White; motion passed unanimously.

Meeting minutes from the previous meeting were discussed and edited. Tirone/Nonni motioned to approve the Meeting Minutes from 2/2/17 with edits; motion passed unanimously.

7:35 pm **Notice of Intent - Mystic Riverfront Restoration Project** (*Mystic River Parkway at Park Street*)

Conservation Commission member Susan Chapnick introduced Assistant Arlington Town Engineer Bill Copithorne to present the Notice of Intent to the Commission for this proposed project.

Documents provided:

Mr. Copithorne provided the required advertisements and notifications and A set of 7 draft plans for the Mystic Riverfront Restoration Project dated February 2017 and prepared by the Town of Arlington Engineering Division.

Mr. Copithorne began by thanking commission members Mike Nonni and Susan Chapnick for the time and expertise they have dedicated to this project. The project locus is at the end of Park Street and Coral Street at Mystic Valley Parkway. A pipe behind the headwall at that location has broken, the concrete headwall has broken away, and the area has been eroded, creating a ditch. Sediment is dropping in the river. Mr. Copithorne explained the proposal to restore the area, remove the concrete headwall, fix the drainage pipes and create a swale with a riparian habitat and a community area. Stormwater filtration through the swale and riparian habitat will also improve the treatment of stormwater entering from Town roads. Audience member

Nadine Elowe asked if the ditch would be filled in. Mr Copithorne confirmed it would not though the project would adjust the topography. Some details of the initial work include saw cutting of the pipe and removal of 8 trees in the area of the broken headwall. A silt fence and straw wattle will surround the perimeter and a turbidity curtain (sediment barrier) will be placed along the river.

Sediment forebays and swales will be created (shown on NOI Drawing 4). Overflow from the forebays will run into the swale and emergency overflow will go into the upper swale. A pea-gravel path will wind around the wetland feature. Local schools will be invited to help plant some of the smaller selected native vegetation. Initial larger plantings (trees and shrubs) will go in this year to stabilize the area followed by the remainder in 2018.

Nadine Elowe asked if there would be much standing water. Susan Chapnick clarified that the riparian habitat will not be wet and that the gravel in the forebays will help to filter / clean the stormwater.

The Town has also agreed to separately fund and apply for a permit for a stormwater infiltration unit upstream of this location. The installation will be done in one day and the unit will be vacuumed by the Town each quarter initially until it is determined how quickly it fills. If the location for that unit is within the 200-foot riverfront buffer, Mr. Copithorne will submit a second Notice of Intent.

Ms. Chapnick confirmed that the proposers will also apply to DCR for a permit. Mr. Copithorne explained that the project, which will be on DCR land, has the support of DCR. The Town will enter a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with DCR that the Town will maintain the project area.

Nadine Elowe asked about the adverse impacts on property values listed on a table on page 13 of the Grant Proposal. Ms. Chapnick agreed that the table is misleading, it actually means that property values will be positively affected.

Discussed plantings:

Eileen Coleman suggested contacting Rachel Oliveiri, School Sustainability Coordinator, for enlisting help with plantings from Arlington elementary schools.

Catherine Garnet confirmed that DRC typically requires a contractor to cover 1 year warrantee but that is negotiable and costs increase with longer warrantee. Ms. Garnett also suggested putting up signs highlighting the volunteer aspect to deter vandalism.

Mike Nonni explained that warrantee cost is roughly equal to either that of plants or labor and pointed out that these plantings are natives so will not be high-maintenance so requiring the applicant to maintain for two years would be sufficient. Nathaniel Stevens suggested asking the bids to include alternatives for warrantee. Chuck Tirone suggested that if the Town warrantees the plants for 1 year, the savings could go into a reserve fund to pay for replacements.

Chuck Tirone asked about the slopes for the wetland. Bill Copithorne responded slopes will be contoured, should be 3:1. The swale will slope 1% towards the river. Visitors unlikely to veer off paths.

Chuck Tirone asked if the stormwater infiltration unit will capture all runoff. Bill Copithorne explained the design is being refined, should capture first flush, likely a 2- or 5-year storm. Chuck Tirone asked how undercutting the culvert will be prevented. There will be a stone rip-rap below the seam with the new outfall, which should prevent undercutting.

Dee Carr, in the audience, mentioned seeing flooding up to Park Street in the past and

asked if that would still happen. Bill Copithorne confirmed it would not.

DWhite/Tirone motioned to appoint Susan Chapnick to draft the Order of Conditions with assistance from Catherine Garnett; motion passed unanimously.

Conditions to include:

1. requiring 2-year maintenance of plantings;
2. revising plan to show new erosion controls;

Discussion of MOU to be generated when DCR Permit obtained, which would include an Operations & Maintenance Plan.

Tirone/DWhite motioned to continue the hearing to March 2, 2017, at 7:45pm; motion passed unanimously.

8:30pm Notice of Intent – 18 Nourse Street DEP No. 091-0281 (cond'd from 2/2/2017)

Brian Butler from Oxbow Associates, Nelson Oliveira, Contractor, and Peter Gammie, Project P.E. from Columbia Design Group represented the project proponents.

Brian Butler provided details of the proposal to replace an existing single family home with a duplex. The drainage system has been resized. Some of the drainage goes into galleys in front of the house and some to galleys behind the house.

A temporary chain link fence on one side of house will negate the need for additional erosion control. Mr. Butler doesn't think a silt sock in the storm drain is warranted. Nelson Oliveira confirmed the street would be swept daily (will be added as Condition) and nothing would move across the road to the storm drain.

The existing ornamental tree will be removed. Upon discussion of tree plantings it was agreed that the trees at front would be replaced (due to proximity of infiltration devices) with ornamentals and with plantings at the foundation. And 3" caliper trees at 14-16' would be planted behind the house (will be added as Conditions).

Discussed the Operations & Maintenance Plan: The Stormtech unit is tiny and cannot be cleaned. Agreed the gutters would be cleaned twice per year and Stormtech will be checked twice per year (to be added as Conditions).

Peter Gammie addressed the questions provided by Janine White. Systems 3 and 4 discharge via a 4" pipe that tees off the 6" pipe. Mr. Gammie agreed to add more detailed wording to Operations and Maintenance Plan based on plan provided by Chuck Tirone (will be added as Condition).

Proposed Conditions to include:

Daily street sweeping,

Planting of ornamentals and smaller plants at foundation to replace trees being removed from front of house,

Planting 3 inch caliper, 14 to 16 foot trees behind house,

Gutters to be cleaned twice per year,

Stormtech to be inspected twice per year and

Add more detail to the O&M Plan.

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

Will deliberate on March 2, 2017, at 8:15pm.

Chuck Tirone will assist with writing Order of Conditions to include items listed above.

Nathaniel Stevens will email the building department to sign-off on the demolition permit provided that demolition starts after March 13, 2017.

8:45 pm **Executive Session** – Active Litigation: Seaver Construction Co. v. Arlington Conservation Commission, Middlesex Sup. Ct. Civ. A. No. 1681CV03021 (regarding 12 Clyde Terrace). Postponed.

9:15pm **Commission Commission Updates:**

Spy Pond CPA Application

Catherine Garnet has received an invoice from Chester Engineering for \$13,428.81 for concept alternatives, public meeting, mileage reimbursement etc.

DWhite/Tirone motioned to approve payment in advance of Ms. Garnett checking totals against spreadsheet; motion passed unanimously.

Discussed grants (PARC and LWCF) identified by Brian Rehrig for which Arlington had not been applying. General agreement that Conservation Commission commits to applying next year for one or both grants discussed. Ms. Garnett will look at application requirements.

Waterbodies & Waterbodies Fund

Mr. White distributed the Waterbodies Assessment and Recommendation Report.

Susan Chapnick described the situation with respect to McClennan Park. Brown & Caldwell assessed (through surface water and sediment sampling) the brown water in the retention basins and determined there was no human health risk but there was a potential ecological health risk. More definitive assessment over seasons would be required. The work would be phased as follows: 1. Initial sampling (\$10k). This was presented to the Finance Committee on Feb 15 and will be presented next to Town Meeting. Teresa Benedictis suggested surplus budget money could be used; 2. Ecological Risk Assessment; and 3. Potential CPA-funded project to clear ponds (\$200k).

Commission Membership

No one has applied for open Conservation Commission member position. Would prefer to have an engineer but Janine While and Bill O'Rourke have both offered to assist with engineering analysis.

Meeting adjourned at 9:40pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Eileen Coleman, Associate Commissioner