

Arlington Conservation Commission
Minutes
March 1, 2018

Mr. Stevens called the meeting to order at 7:31 p.m. in the second floor conference room of the Town Hall Annex. Present were Commission Members Nathaniel Stevens, David White, Mike Nonni, Curt Connors, Susan Chapnick, Cathy Garnett, Charles Tirone, Pam Heidell, and Conservation Agent Lela Shepherd. Also present were Natasha Waden, John Hurd, and an unidentified resident.

Administrative:

2/15/2018 Minutes

Edits were discussed, D. White motioned to approve Minutes as edited, C. Tirone seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

Working Session-Natasha Waden (Health Department)

The Health Department is responding to a public complaint received last summer regarding mosquitoes. Ms. Waden presented a picture of the McClennen Park Detention Basin and the vegetation she believes is problematic and contributing to mosquito growth. The Eastern Mass Middlesex Mosquito Control Program believes dredging the opposite (Lexington) side of the bridge is the best option to deal with this problem, since there is a lot of standing water in this area. She has been working with the Public Health Director in Lexington because dredging would increase the flow to Lexington residents. She has not reached out to the Lexington Conservation Commission at this time. The project is slated to start in late summer or fall of next year. D. White suggested checking the original designs of the site to see if the depth has changed over time. Wayne Chouinard in Engineering has these plans. N. Stevens stated that filing a Notice of Intent for the dredging is the most appropriate way to proceed. N. Stevens suggested checking to see if this activity qualifies as stormwater maintenance, which may not require an NOI. N. Stevens also alerted Ms. Waden to settlement agreement(s) between the Town and some residence when McClennan Park was constructed as she might not want to inadvertently violate any provisions. L. Shepherd recommended that Ms. Waden coordinate with DPW as she proceeds with this project.

Working Session-John Hurd (Attorney for Sean Galvin)

Documents Presented: Snow Removal Plan for 630 Summer Street; photos by Attorney Hurd.

C. Tirone requested a Site Plan, a physical drawing showing where the construction fence will be located and identifying the snow storage area. N. Stevens gave feedback on particular wording to be added. Mr. Hurd does not need to return to the Commission, he just needs to send a copy of the changes to Lela Shepherd, Conservation Agent.

A resident in this area (wishing to remain anonymous) commented that the wetlands currently have a large amount of trash remaining from the snow dumping and plowing. L. Shepherd had observed the trash during her site visits and some was visible in photos Attorney Hurd provided.

L. Shepherd will schedule an inspection to ensure that all litter has been removed from the wetlands.

Earth Day

The Clean-Up Day Committee will meet on Friday 3/2/2018 to determine the details for a clean-up event at both Symmes Woods and Mill Brook @ Wellington Park on Sunday, April 22nd. The event will likely occur between 1:30 and 4:00 pm.

DEP Signage for Mystic River Restoration Project

L. Shepherd presented sign examples provided by DEP. She will follow up with DCR to see if they have specific requirements for how the sign must look on their land. Bill Copithorne, Assistant Town Engineer, has been visiting the site regularly and believes that the outfall needs additional work due to destabilization from heavy winter rains. S. Chapnick reminded the Commission that the grant funds are limited, and unless DPW can do this work, funding to cover the repairs may need to be found. S. Chapnick suggested a meeting with the

contractor, M. Nonni, and Bill Copithorne within the next couple weeks to discuss options. L. Shepherd will arrange the meeting.

Hatch Chester Invoice #4

M. Nonni moved to approve payment of the invoice in the amount of \$2,644.19, C. Connors seconded, all were in favor, motion passed.

Mill Brook/Wellington Park Revitalization Project

The Commission will be represented on this project by D. White and S. Chapnick. C. Garnett will no longer volunteer time on this project.

Wetlands Regulations Revisions

The Commission reviewed revisions made on version 2-26-2018 as related to allowable alteration of the AURA and as they relate to the addition of impervious surface, plus provisions on climate change. S. Chapnick moved to approve the revised draft, D. White seconded but would like to see a final clean version at the next meeting, no further discussion, all were in favor, motion passed.

Open Space Committee

The Open Space Committee is concerned about Arlington's Great Meadows because the retirement home adjacent to it is closing and it serves as a significant access point.

Residences at Alewife Station

L. Shepherd summarized a conversation she had with Town Manager, Adam Chapdelaine earlier in the day. He had been asked to prepare a letter (by the BSC Group, managing this project) stating that he was in approval/support of the project even though it would slightly increase the base flood elevation in the Alewife watershed including properties in Arlington. This project is primarily in Cambridge. L. Shepherd advised Mr. Chapdelaine that the Commission would not be in support of this increase, regardless of how small because of cumulative effects and set standards that must be upheld across the board. L. Shepherd has previously told the BSC Group that they would need to file a permit to remove the impervious surface and provide mitigation for the base flood elevation increase on the Arlington parcel. The BSC Group instead decided not to remove the pavement and proceed with the project on the Cambridge parcels.

D. White motioned to convey to the Town Manager that the Commission would like him to not sign-off on the base flood elevation increase along the Alewife Brook between Arlington and Cambridge, C. Connors seconded, all were in favor, motion passed. L. Shepherd will convey this message to the Town Manager.

i-Tree USFS Tool for measuring climate change mitigation

L. Shepherd attended a webinar held by the US Forest Service on their free online tool which measures ecological, carbon, energy, and air pollution effects for planting specific species of trees under a set of assumptions and criteria. L. Shepherd believes that this tool could be used to inform the new climate change regulations added by the Commission. She showed the Commission how to use the tool and passed around copies of an inventory she created of trees which either currently exist in Arlington or which MassDEP says Arlington should be using in new tree planting. The Commission discussed the i-Tree tool and decided to test it out on the next few permits that require tree replacement.

Meeting adjourned at 10:08 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Lela Shepherd
Environmental Planner/Conservation Agent