

Arlington Conservation Commission
Minutes
March 15, 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, Susan Chapnick, Charles Tirone, and Pam Heidell, Associate Member Cathy Garnett, and Conservation Agent Lela Shepherd. Member Curt Connors was not in attendance. No members of the public were in attendance.

Administrative:

3/1/2018 Minutes

D. White motioned to approve Minutes as drafted, P. Heidell seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

Ecofest

The Commission discussed who was available to cover a table at this event. S. Chapnick can cover 10:00-11:00 am, N. Stevens can cover 11am -12:30 pm, and C. Tirone can be there from 1:00-2:00 pm. S. Chapnick and L. Shepherd will update the Conservation Newsletter to be handed out at Ecofest. The MVP Summary handout will be at the table as well. L. Shepherd will create a form for signing up to conservation email notices and any other comments or questions. L. Shepherd will look into whether a scan code can be created for handouts which will bring people directly to the Conservation Commission webpage.

Earth Day

L. Shepherd presented the Symmes Woods ACC Project Application. The Great Arlington Clean-up Day will be held on Sunday, April 22, 2018 from 1:30-3:30 pm. There will be two locations, but the land stewards will focus on the Symmes Woods site which is 10 minutes walking distance to the Mill Brook location at Wellington Park. L. Shepherd will be meeting with the Arlington Land Trust, along with M. Nonni and C. Garnett to discuss volunteer tasks, and to determine if volunteers can help remove Norway saplings, which was identified as a need in the 2013 Management Plan.

Storm-Damaged Trees

The Commission discussed whether it would require permitting and/or replacement for storm damaged tree removal. It determined that trees that no longer have their leader can be removed, provided a stump 3-4 inches above ground is left to avoid soil erosion, and do not need to be replaced.

Mill Brook/Wellington Park Revitalization Project

The first public meeting had a successful turnout with approximately 40 people. A presentation was given, then breakout groups discussed the corridor, and the meeting ended with an exercise to engage direct abutters to Wellington Park and Mill Brook. A copy of the presentation has been placed in the Conservation Commission's Dropbox but will not be posted online as it is filled mostly with pictures and not descriptive language.

Reservoir Draft Master Plan

The Commission was asked to review the draft plan and provide comments on its 4/5 meeting so that they can be reflected in the public presentation on April 3, 2018.

195-211 Concord Turpike (Lanes and Games) CLOMR letter to be signed by Town Manager

An agreement was made between Mike Rademacher, Director of Public Works and Criterion (developer) to provide \$20,000 to the ABC Floodgroup for the purpose of analyzing the impacts of potential future flooding events and potential solutions for the region. The Town Manager requested feedback from the Commission on whether this satisfies their concerns regarding the de minimis increase to the base flood elevation (BFE) in the project area. The Commission requested that the Town Manager include language in his letter to proceed which recognizes the BFE increase, albeit as a nominal increase, as the Commission was not given the chance to review the project since work will not be conducted in Arlington and a wetland permit application was not filed. The Commission relied on the Town Engineer's opinion that the rise in BFE would be de minimis.

Snow Removal Plan-630 Summer St

Attorney John Hurd submitted an updated the snow removal plan for this property and provided a site plan detailing where the construction fence would be located to protect the wetlands. D. White motioned to approve the snow removal plan as edited, C. Tirone seconded, all were in favor, motion passed.

Review of applicable grants

L. Shepherd gave a summary of potential grants for conservation projects with deadlines for applying, these included:

- Mass DEP 604b Water Quality Grant
- DCR Partnership Matching Funds Program
- Judy Record Fund

Due to timing, L. Shepherd will focus on the DCR grant for the Mystic Project and the Judy Record Fund for the Spy Pond Park pier construction.

Wetlands Regulations Press Release

The Wetland Protection Regulations were revised and approved on 3/1/2018. S. Chapnick drafted a press release to let the public know of these changes. The press release was discussed and edits were made. The press release will be sent out the week of 3/19/2018.

S. Chapnick motioned to adjourn the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:21 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Lela Shepherd
Environmental Planner/Conservation Agent