

Arlington Conservation Commission
Minutes
May 3, 2018

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 Commission Members Nathaniel Stevens, David White, Mike Nonni, Charles Tirone, Pam Heidell, Susan Chapnick, Curt Connors, Associate Member Cathy Garnett and Conservation Agent Lela Shepherd. No members of the public were present.

Administrative:

4/26/2018 Minutes

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

Mystic River Restoration Project

During the 5/3/2018 meeting, the Commission had discussed the need to draw from another funding source to complete repairs at the Mystic River Restoration Project due to unforeseen weather impacts at the site. The question was asked whether the permit filing fees account for the Commission could be used. N. Stevens followed up on this issue by stating he would send out the DOR Guidance to review for a vote at the next meeting on 5/17/18.

12 Clyde Terrace Plantings

L. Shepherd went out to the site to follow-up on C. Garnett's concern that plantings were not of adequate size. She met with Dana Tower and two of his landscape architects and took pictures of the area. L. Shepherd could not locate a planting schedule with size requirements beyond the planting plan, which specified No. 1 pots as the smallest plant size. The Commission discussed the matter and concurred that in future filings, Applicants should be made to specify size of plantings. The Wetlands Protection Regulations will need to be edited to state that the planting installation should adhere to the American Association of Nurserymen (AAN). As for follow-up, L. Shepherd will instruct the Applicant to pull back mulch at least 6 inches around the bushes and trees to satisfy concerns over suffocating the smaller shrubs. L. Shepherd will also review negotiations and SOOC to confirm sizes were not specified.

Procedures for tree removal on town-owned land

As follow-up to a meeting last July with D. White, N. Stevens, and representatives from DPW and Park and Rec, the Commission discussed the idea of a General Permit for tree removal on town-owned land. General consensus agreed that a General Permit would only be appropriate if funds were made available for a tree bank so the Commission can draw from it to replace trees at a designated time and place. N. Stevens will set a meeting with the Town Manager and Deputy Town Manager along with other Commissioners to discuss how this might work.

Signs on Conservation Lands

L. Shepherd followed-up on the costs for placing No Dumping signs on conservations lands. DPW currently has 2 signs already printed; additional signs cost \$25/piece and additional \$25 for installation. L Shepherd will begin to assess inventory and determine locational need.

Notice of Intent-62/64 Fairmont Rd

The Commission discussed the proposed project and determined no special conditions would be required, as long as the Applicant follows their planting plan, dated 4/11/2018, installs plants per AAN standards and the O&M plan, dated 4/9/2018, and maintains vegetative areas.

C. Connors motioned to close the hearing, S. Chapnick seconded, all were in favor, no discussion, motion carried, hearing is now closed.

C. Tirone motioned to issue an Order of Conditions, C. Connors seconded, all were in favor, no discussion, motion carried.

Spy Pond Trail Permitting

L. Shepherd asked the Commission if the Spy Pond Trails and Access Project, an offshoot project of the Spy Pond Erosion Controls and Stabilization Project, which would replace the existing stabilized aggregate path with a pour-in-place permeable pavement (Porous Pave), would qualify as a resurfacing project and could, therefore, be permitted under an RDA rather than a NOI. The Commission generally agreed that an RDA would be appropriate as the proposed work is primarily over existing path and only excavates soils of the existing path materials.

Spy Pond Committee and Arsenic

The Commission discussed possibly using \$5,000 from the Waterbodies Fund for core testing on the sand bar in Spy Pond. S. Chapnick asked if the Commission, or the Town in general, would be obligated to remove and remediate contaminants if found. Arsenic was found 20 years ago but no recent testing has been conducted. The following questions were asked: Whose jurisdiction is this? Who owns that part of the pond? Who is responsible if results require a clean-up under state law? N. Stevens will speak with the Legal Department and the Town Manager as a follow-up.

Meeting adjourned at 8:43pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Lela Shepherd