



TOWN OF WATERTOWN
Conservation Commission
Administration Building
149 Main Street
WATERTOWN, MASSACHUSETTS 02472

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Marylouise Pallotta McDermott, Member
Charles C. Bering, Member
Patrick W. Fairbairn, Member
Maria P. Rose Member
Jamie O'Connell, Member

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MINUTES

Meeting Date: Wednesday, June 5, 2019, 7:00 PM in the Philip Pane Lower Hearing Room

Conservation Commission Members Present: Leo Martin, Patrick Fairbairn, Maria P. Rose, Jamie O'Connell

Absent: Marylouise Pallotta McDermott, Charles Bering

Also Present: *Christin McDonough, Mike Howard, Colleen Egan*

Staff Present: Steve Magoon, *Acting Agent*, Susan C. Jenness, *Assistant*

Martin Chaired.

- 1. Public Hearing Continued – Parcel 1236-2-0 and 1510-1-0** for an Abbreviated Notice of Resource Area Delineation (ANRAD) request submitted for the approval of resource area boundary delineation associated with the resource areas located at Parcel 1236-2-0 and 1510-1-0 at 71 Arlington Street. Owner applicant: Maximos Hatziliades. Representative: Michael (Mickey) Marcus, Joseph Rogers, SWCA Environmental, LLC

Christine McDonough, Certified Wildlife Biologist for SWCA was present to represent the Applicant. She explained that her appearance at this meeting was to discuss the methodology now being planned to make a determination about the Riverine Characteristics of Sawin's Pond, raised by a prior scientist named Patrick Garner, at a previous point in time at this site.

She reviewed the history of the Applicant's current request for an ANRAD, filed by SWCA in December, and later amended in January to include Sawin's Pond. She explained that the Town brought in Mike Howard from Epsilon to represent the

Conservation Commission, (CC) and that Howard was initially in agreement with her opinion that the stream was perennial.

During a previous public meeting, the CC brought up a letter that had been submitted by Patrick Garner that characterized the pond as riverine, which Epsilon wanted to pursue an investigation of. She explained that Epsilon requested SWCA to report back to the CC about the methodology that would be used in the investigation of Garner's claim that the site was riverine.

Fairbairn stated that Garner's determination of riverine conditions in Sawin's Pond had been delivered as a preliminary opinion. He suggested that the CC should also consult with Garner to have the benefit of his professional opinion

Mcdonough and Howard both agreed that the May 29th letter to the CC from SWCA is consistent with Howard's research. Howard explained that they are trying to balance the data from a review of the site. He said that Epsilon and SWCA agree that the site is not a river west of Arlington St. and that Garner's letter is a piece of the puzzle with no supporting data. He said he is comfortable with the appropriate use of a dye test being conducted in good faith, and that the test would achieve a conclusion on whether or not the site was primarily riverine, or primarily pond.

Martin asked for SWCA to go forward with a dye test and asked that the results be reported back to Magoon or Schreiber. He said that the CC could draw forth a conclusion and then move forward with a decision. SWCA was asked to notify our agent as well as our consultant the date of the testing so that they could witness the work.

2. Election- Vice Chair of the Watertown Conservation Commission

After a brief discussion the CC made a motion to elect a new Vice Chair.

Motion: Martin recommended Rose as the Vice Chair of the Conservation Commission. O'Connell seconded the motion.

Vote: A unanimous vote was reached electing Rose as the Vice Chair of the Conservation Commission.

3. Change of Date- September meeting date

Motion: Rose made a motion to change the date of the September meeting to the 11th. O'Connell seconded the motion.

Vote: A unanimous vote was reached to move the September meeting to the 11th.

4. Commission Discussion- Whitney Hill

- a. **Tree Graffiti Update-** Fairbairn reported that several trees remain at Whitney Hill with graffiti on them. Magoon said Hayward had reportedly addressed the issue but that he may have not seen the additional trees that had not been cleaned. Magoon said he will follow up with Hayward to be sure the graffiti are removed as requested.
- b. **Trail Stewardship Update-** Fairbairn explained that he found a publication on the DCR website about volunteerism, and trail management that he thought would be helpful to the CC in developing a stewardship program at Whitney Hill. He asked the clerk to send out copies of the manuals to his colleagues from the office.

Fairbairn mentioned the existing erosion issues at Whitney Hill and said he thought a stewardship program might be a good way of addressing that matter. His colleagues said they felt those were issues may be better addressed by the Town. Rose suggested the CC take a site visit at some point to explore the site together.

- c. **Signage-** Magoon updated the CC that he could make financial arrangements easily through the Town to obtain a kiosk for Whitney Hill.

Magoon said he did not think there were granite pieces at the site feasible for etching in creating signage for the site.

Martin asked that management follow up by ordering a basic kiosk for Whitney Hill.

Martin asked Magoon to look into the area of the park opposite Marion Rd. where there is no barrier to prevent people from entering the park to dispose of their trash.

5. Minutes- May 7, 2019

The minutes from the May 7, 2019 were continued at the request of Magoon.

6. Agent report

- a. **Commission Member Application Update-** Magoon reported there are a couple of applicants being considered for appointment to the Conservation Commission. Magoon is waiting for more from Mr. Driscoll.

- b. **Agent Application Update-** Magoon reported that an offer was made to a candidate for the position and he is hoping they will be in attendance at the next Conservation Commission Meeting.
- c. **GSA site status report** - Magoon said he reached out to Dan Driscoll from the DCR and invited him to come to a meeting. He said he is hopeful to see him at the meeting next month.

Magoon reported that the Army Corp did a site walk in regard to an email about the status report on May 22, 2019. The DCR is taking action on the issues with the catch basins.

Nancy Hammett who was present for the discussion before the CC said she had emailed two memorandums to the Office of Conservation that were written in regard to her observations with the maintenance of the GSA site. Many of the points in her memos were made since the site was passed on to DCR. The material submitted by Hammett had been distributed to members of the Commission prior to the meeting.

Hammett urged the Conservation Commission to put together a list of issues for the DCR to follow up on, using their experience and knowledge to support the DCR in overseeing the site which is well known by commission members.

- d. **Arsenal Park Design Update-** Magoon reported that the town had begun the process of entering a partnership that was public and private with Boylston Properties. The partnership would include the portion of the park design on the east End. He explained that they could work faster together, than the Town would be able to on their own and that legal counsel is currently working out the legal aspects, with legislation taking place at the state house.

Magoon said the Town is prepared to advance the design of the East End of the park that had been much ignored over time, and that Boylston Properties will be putting in One Half of a million dollars into the advance of the East End of the project. Magoon said CDM has been hired to design the plan if the partnership goes forward as anticipated

Motion: A motion was made by O'Connell at 9:00 PM to adjourn the meeting. Rose seconded the motion.

Vote: A unanimous vote was reached to adjourn the meeting at 9:00 PM