



City of Watertown
Conservation Commission
Administration Building
149 Main St.
Watertown, MA 02472

Maria P. Rose, Chair
Jamie O'Connell, Vice Chair
Leo Martin, Member
Rachel Danford, Member
Jill Ayers, Member
Patrick Towler, Member

MINUTES

Meeting Date: Wednesday, January 8, 2025, 7:00 PM, Remote Meeting on Zoom

Conservation Commission Members Present: Maria Rose, Jamie O'Connell, Jill Ayers, and Leo Martin

Absent: Rachel Danford and Patrick Towler

Also Present: Marilyn Salvas, New Member whose term begins in February

Staff Present: Katie Swan, Conservation Agent; Susan Jenness, Assistant

Rose chaired the meeting and took roll call.

1. Whitney Hill Update

Whitney Hill Management Plan: Rose shared that she and Swan met in December to discuss the RFP. The draft RFP was sent to the working group and Rose asked to send the draft RFP to the rest of the Commission members for their input. Rose and Swan discussed that there are several options for funding. Swan will discuss options for more funding further with Steve Magoon.

2024 Annual Whitney Hill Report: Rose and the Commission members went through the draft report. Swan will follow up with next steps for completing the annual report for delivery to the City Manager in February.

2. Updates

A. CPC Updates: O'Connell reported several ongoing and upcoming projects.

- Browne House: work is underway on the support beams for structural needs.
- 103 Nichols Avenue: affordable housing project – conceptual designs are at 50%, while the development team is looking for other funding sources.

- Restored City Hall Paintings: will be delayed due to unanticipated additional work that needed to be completed. The unveiling of the paintings has been moved from January to February 2025.
- Willow Park: affordable housing project – the project has been recommended by the CPC to be move forward.
- Walker Pond: O’Connell has a presentation on Walker Pond that she will share with members in an email.

B. Agent Report

- 580 Pleasant Street:** Swan conducted a site visit on 12/11/24 during a two (2) inch rainstorm at 580 Pleasant Street and found that a stormwater BMP Flared End System (FES-100) was not working correctly (it was observed that water was coming out under the backend and down onto the hillside into the river). Swan met with the property engineer on 12/13/24 to look at the issue. Next steps:
 1. install temporary erosion and siltation controls (below the FES 100) and follow up with photos when installed, and
 2. 580 Pleasant Street management team will follow up with their stormwater engineer to look at the specs of the FES 100.
- 49 Elm Street:** during a routine site visit inspection of 23 Elm Street on 1/6/25, Swan noticed debris dumped along the fence within Williams Parcel abutting 49 Elm Street. She visited the site with Tony Mancini on 1/7/25, and they determined it was appropriate to send a letter to Max Hatziliades and officially notify him about the illegal dumping by the abutters to resolve the problem.
- DCR Farren Playground:** Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) held a public meeting on 12/21/24 via Zoom. DCR is working on updating the design of the playground and basketball court located on Charles River Road (opposite of Irving Street). Rose and Swan attended the meeting and received a copy of the presentation which she shared briefly with the Commission members.

3. Acceptance of Minutes

- A. December 4, 2024, Conservation Commission minutes were tabled for not having a quorum. The minutes were tabled to the February 5, 2025 meeting.

4. Meeting Adjournment

Motion: O’Connell made a motion at 8:50 pm to adjourn the meeting. Martin seconded the motion.

Roll Call: All members present were polled, all agreed with the motion made to adjourn the meeting at 8:50 pm.