



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, December 5, 2024, 7:00 PM, Remote Meeting on Zoom

Conservation Commission Members Present: Maria Rose, Jamie O'Connell, Rachel Danford, Jill Ayers, and Patrick Towler

Absent: Leo Martin

Also Present: N/A

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

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Rose chaired the meeting.

### **1. Whitney Hill Updates**

- 2024 Whitney Hill Annual Report: Swan started to organize for the 2024 annual report, due to be finalized by February 5, 2025.
- Whitney Hill Management Plan: Rose worked briefly on the scope of work for the management plan and planned to circulate a draft for review before the year's end. Swan and Rose to discuss the scope of work and project goals to ensure there was no duplication.

### **2. Updates**

- A. CPC updates:** O'Connell discussed the project that is in front of the CPC, Affordable Housing Redevelopment at Willow Park.
- Willow Park redevelopment project aims to replace aging buildings with new structures, increasing the total number of affordable housing units. The CPC received a funding request for \$4,000,000 as part of a larger project cost. This local funding commitment

would help secure additional state and federal grants. A follow-up meeting was scheduled for December 9 to discuss funding conditions.

## **B. Agent Report**

- **Winter Monitoring:** Swan reported that as we are entering into winter soon, she is ensuring snow storage is in compliance with site plans and salt/sandpiles are properly covered.
- **99 Coolidge:** Swan reported that remediation planting areas were installed in November. General site maintenance was delegated to Alexandria Real Estate Equities (ARE) operations. Some areas, including erosion control fences, still need attention. Concerns about sediment runoff near sensitive stream areas were raised; straw wattles were recommended for additional protection.
- **Arsenal Park:** Swan reported that construction updates are to be provided at the next meeting. Staff is monitoring tasks to ensure completion by spring.
- **99 Coolidge/DCR Bike path Construction:** Swan reported that DCR completed the bike path in August. Remaining temporary structures are awaiting stabilization.
- **Regulatory Updates:** Swan reported that the Permit Extension Act was signed into law last month.

## **3. Acceptance of Minutes**

- A. September 4, 2024 Conservation Commission minutes were approved with amendments.

**Motion:** Connell made a motion to accept the minutes as modified. Danford seconded.

**Roll Call:** Members were polled, and all agreed with the motion made by O'Connell.

- B. October 9, 2024 Conservation Commission minutes were approved with amendments.

**Motion:** O'Connell made a motion to accept the minutes as modified. Towler seconded.

**Roll Call:** Members were polled, and all agreed with the motion made by O'Connell.

- C. November 6, 2024, Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes were approved.

**Motion:** Towler made a motion to accept the minutes as modified. Danford seconded.

**Roll Call:** Members were polled, and all agreed with the motion made by Towler.

## **4. Meeting Adjournment**

**Motion:** O'Connell made a motion at 7:39 pm to adjourn the Conservation Commission meeting. Towler seconded the motion.

**Roll Call:** All members present were polled, and all agreed with the motion made to adjourn the meeting at 7:39 pm.