



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

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

Telephone (617) 972-6426
Facsimile (617) 926-7778
www.watertown-ma.gov
Susan C. Jenness, Assistant

MINUTES

Meeting Date: Wednesday, September 11, 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, Charles Bering

Absent: Marylouise Pallotta McDermott

Also Present: *Nancy Hammett, Colleen Egan*

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

Martin Chaired.

1. Introduction to Laurel Schwab, Senior Environmental Planner

Steve Magoon introduced Laurel Schwab who was hired by the Town as the Senior Environmental Planner, who will assume the duties of the Agent to the Conservation Commission.

Members of the commission made introductions to the new Conservation Agent, and offered relevant details of their specialized backgrounds to her.

2. CPA Update

Rose reported that the CPA Committee will be meeting early at this month's meeting on the 3rd Thursday of the month when they will interview top candidates who may be hired to coordinate the activities of the CPA and get them up to filing and doing community outreach.

Rose reported that a subgroup will be assembled to focus on Rules and Regulations of the CPA committee, and that the highest priority of the group for now is to get a consultant on board to support the efforts of the committee.

3. **Minutes- July 17, 2019**

At the request of Steve Magoon, the minutes from the July 17, 2019 Conservation Commission meeting were continued for the October meeting.

4. **Commission Discussion- Faire on the Square**

Martin asked Jenness for an update on acquiring a table for the event and she reported that she submitted an application in July booking a table in a similar location as the previous year's faire.

The group discussed their plans to meet for the event taking place on September 28th in Saltonstall Park between the hours of 11:00 am and 4:00 PM. The group determined how best to share their contributions and resources to make the most of the day for attendees of the Faire.

5. **Agent Report**

a. **Status of new Conservation Commission member**

Steve Magoon reported that Town Council is scheduled to interview new members and that confirmation is anticipated for a new member in the near future. He anticipates a new Conservation Commission member by the meeting in October.

b. **Status of Arsenal Park**

Steve Magoon reported that the Public/Private Partnership between the Town of Watertown and Boylston Properties fell apart when a \$65,000.00 fee for construction was added to the contract by Boylston Properties increasing the costs to the Town by 5%. The Town's lawyers said that they could not pay the increase. Members of the board raised concern with whether or not the options that were approved of by them should be revisited. Magoon stated that those options would be reviewed to make sure they were on budget and they could scale back on options if necessary. Martin explained that this Order of Conditions was for Phase I of the construction, and pointed out that the Notice of Intent may need to be amended in which case a new Order of Conditions would be issued by the commission. Rose asked if the the Town Manager could negotiate the fee that was inserted into the contract by Boylston Properties, and Magoon responded that the Town Attorney said that payment of the fee was not possible for the Town.

Hammett asked what was lost by this new development. Magoon said time was lost resulting in a delay of the project, and that the cost of the project would change.

- c. Prior to closing the meeting, Fairbairn asked if Magoon and Martin had any further recommendations on how to handle the care of Whitney Hill. He elaborated that he was asking because there were still two trees that were vandalized by profane graffiti in existence that he previously reported and were said to have been taken care of by the Tree Warden.

Fairbairn asked if the Commission would be better off if they handed over care of the park to another group such as Trees for Watertown who would be able to steward the trees. He described the specifics of the graffiti of the two trees to Magoon who said he would speak to Chris Hayward, the Town Tree Warden and ask him to follow up on the issue. Fairbairn specified that the trees might not be visible to someone unless they are out walking the hill. Magoon suggested Hayward may be in touch with him to get guidance about where these specific trees were located.

Motion: A motion was made by O'Connell to adjourn the meeting at 8:20 PM. Bering seconded the motion.

Vote: A unanimous vote was made to adjourn the meeting at 8:20 PM.