



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

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Susan C. Jenness, Assistant

MINUTES

Meeting Time and location: Wednesday, September 5, 2018, 7:00 PM, Philip Pane Lower Hearing Rm.

Conservation Commission Members Present: Leo Martin, Patrick Fairbairn, Jamie O'Connell, Marylouise Pallotta McDermott, Maria Rose-arrived late

Commission Members Absent: Charles Bering

Also present: Nancy Hammet, Caroline Bays

Staff Present: Steve Magoon, Acting Conservation Agent, Susan C. Jenness, Admin. Support

Martin Chaired.

1. Minutes- June 6, 2018 Meeting

Magoon made a request for Martin to table the minutes until the next month's meeting
Martin agreed to table the minutes until the October meeting.

2. Public Hearing- Request for Certificate of Compliance- DEP File #321-0156 NSTAR Station 315 – Electric Avenue Project. Marc Bergeron, Vanasse Hangen Brustlin, Inc. (VHB)

Dan Cannata appeared for VHB to answer questions about his request of the Conservation Commission.

Cannata said that he filed an as built plan for the CC members and added some supplemental material that showed the project details more clearly.

Magoon reported that he went out and walked the site after reviewing the Order of Conditions, (OOC). He said he found everything at the site to be up to the standards of the OOC.

Motion: Pallotta McDermott made a motion to approve the request for a Certificate of Compliance for the project. Fairbairn seconded the motion to approve the request.

Vote: A unanimous vote was reached to approve the Certificate of Compliance.

3. Commission Discussion- Plans for Faire on the Square

- Martin reported that he met with Fairbairn over the summer to discuss plans for Faire on the Square.
- Martin reported that Schreiber, Senior Planner created a white board depicting a wetlands and greenspace map.
- Fairbairn has map depicting the work he does with the high school students at Whitney Hill.
- Jenness created a handout she designed to assist the CC meet new potential members at the Faire. The handout contains the names and addresses of the original CC member formed at the request of Town Council on April 11, 1966. The current members of the CC are listed on the flyer along with an attachment from the 2017 Conservation Commission Annual Report to provide information about the nature of projects and work associated with the CC.
- Fairbairn created a document outlining the role of the Conservation Commission and suggested having it enlarged and attached to a white board to display at the Faire on the Square.
- O'Connell made the following suggestions to explore for use at the Faire on the Square. Interactive programming with children such as allowing them to match species found in the park that are listed on the Whitney Hill board prepared by Fairbairn; a board with the Arsenal Park Development on it; a display on CPA Funding and allowing attendees to post sticky notes with suggestions about what they would like to see happen with CPA funding when it becomes available.
- Martin will meet with Fairbairn and Magoon during the day the week before the Faire on the Square to discuss and finalize plans for the Faire taking place on Saturday September 22, 2018. All other members of the CC are invited to join in if they can be available once the time is determined.

4. Informational Discussion- Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Program presented by Jamie O'Connell

O'Connell submitted a handout about the Municipality Vulnerability Preparedness Program (MVP) which is run by the Massachusetts Executive Office of Environmental Affairs.

The goal of the program is to increase municipal resilience to climate change, extreme weather and natural disasters and assess community hazards and strengths.

In return for participating in the program, each community will submit a final report on their Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness and receive certification as an MVP Community, along with

the opportunity to apply for MVP Activity Grants from \$10,000.00 to \$400,000.00 depending on the program size.

The program requires in kind staff time of between 120- 200 hours. Commitment of community involvement is required by a show of letters that can be written by Town Management Staff, and local businesses and community groups and residents interested in supporting the effort.

Some of the tasks involved in this program may have also been accomplished in the Town's Hazard Mitigation Plan or FEMA Flood Insurance Plan.

Magoon explained that the Town is currently updating the Hazard Mitigation Plan. Magoon further stated that the Watertown WE3C Committee is pursuing the Climate and Energy Plan for the town which might have a confluence of interests with the MVP.

According to Magoon, a good next step would be to begin a conversation with the Watertown E3C Committee. He said he also intends to have the new Environmental Planner focus on this program if the Town elects to become involved.

Nancy Hammet said that she was thrilled that O'Connell introduced this topic and prepared an outline to discuss the program with such ease. Hammet also said she would volunteer to help and suggested that the Charles River Watershed Association might be interested in getting involved.

5. Agent Updates

- a. Magoon announced that Chris Hayward would be coming back to the Town to work at the Department of Public Works as the Forestry Supervisor on September 17, 2018.
- b. Magoon reported that the DPW will be conducting Water Main Improvements and referred CC members to the documentation as transmitted by Matt Shuman. Rose asked if they would be removing any trees, and Magoon said no. Hammet asked if they could do the work during the day as when they conduct work like this it is disturbing. Magoon said he thought the project would happen during the day.
- c. Hammet asked to speak about her concerns about the GSA site which is up for its' 5 year review. She said she felt her requests for disclosure of documentation such as reports has not been handled with transparency. She also said that the website for the project is not operating. She said she felt that the public should be able to participate in some public process and asked Magoon what he thought about that. Magoon said he will be attending a site visit very soon and he would ask if members of the CC would be able to come along if they wanted to. He said he would look into these matters in the near future.

- d. Martin expressed concern with a damaged tree over at the Pedestrian Bridge Replacement Project, located on the side of Sasaki Associates. Martin reported that the project manager thought the tree could be saved which Martin did not agree with.
- e. Fairbairn announced that he found that there was no vista available from the bridge anymore.
- f. Fairbairn received an abutters notice from a project before the Historical Commission in his meeting package. The clerk explained that was a mistake on her part. Having seen the notice about the proposed project before the Historical Commission, he expressed to Magoon that he thought it was a good idea for the CC to weigh in on new developments in the future to help find ways to decrease the footprints of new proposed developments that might be going up.
- g. Martin announced to the CC that Nick Cordeiro had not been in touch with the Conservation Office to follow up on his offer to build a kiosk over at Whitney Hill Park. Martin said that Cordeiro had until his 18th birthday to complete the project in conjunction with his Eagle Scout badge. Martin also said that there is another Boy Scout troop in Waltham who might be interested in taking on the project where Cordeiro left off.

Meeting adjourned at 8:50 PM.