

Minutes
Watertown Conservation Commission
Town Council Chambers
Wednesday, November 1, 2017

Conservation Commission Members Present: Marylouise Pallotta McDermott, Leo G. Martin, Patrick Fairbairn, Maria P. Rose, Charles C. Bering, Jamie O'Connell, Louis Taverna

Commission Members Absent: N/A

Staff Present: Christopher J. Hayward, Susan C. Jenness (Adopted 12/6/17)

Martin Chaired.

1. Informational Presentation and Discussion - Watertown Dam Removal

The Watertown Dam (where California and Galen Streets meet) was selected as a priority project by the Massachusetts Department of Fish and Game's Division of Ecological Restoration (DER) in 2016. A feasibility study that would help the project team determine whether or not dam removal is appropriate for this site is currently being planned.

- Elisabeth Cianciola, Aquatic Scientist for the Charles River Watershed Association

Cianciola, an Aquatic Scientist for the Charles River Watershed Association appeared for an informational Presentation and Discussion about the possibility of the Watertown Dam Removal.

She explained that there are no definite plans at the current time to remove the dam. She said that there is a feasibility study being planned and that the study may take anywhere from 1-2 years to show findings.

Martin invited Cianciola to return and make a future presentation to the CC, once there is new information to report on the progress of the proposed Watertown Dam Removal

2. Discussion - Arsenal Park Planning Process – Review and analysis of information that was obtained at public meetings held on August 15, 2017 and October 11, 2017. Gideon Schreiber, Senior Planner- the town of Watertown

Gideon Schreiber appeared before the CC for a review and analysis of the information that was obtained from the two public meetings for the Arsenal Park Planning Process. The meetings were held on August 15, 2017 and October 11, 2017. Information included in the review and analysis for the discussion and analysis were the three plans that had been prepared by CDM as a result of the data collected from the public meetings.

The CC held a discussion focused around the public process and how it had taken place. There seemed to be a question about what was known by the town about the needs of the residents, and how that would factor in to the possibilities available for planning the space.

Comments were made to the CC by members of the public.

After a discussion, Fairbairn, Rose and O'Connell felt they were unable to effectively review and analyze the data from the meetings and the plans prepared by CDM without further inquiry into the planning process.

Motion: Martin made a motion to continue the review and analysis of the information that was obtained at the Arsenal Park Planning Process meetings to the December 6, 2017 CC meeting. Bering seconded the motion.

Vote: A unanimous vote was reached continuing the review and analysis of the Arsenal Park Planning Process to the December 6, 2017 CC meeting.

Taverna excused himself from the meeting at 9:40 PM.

3. Minutes from the October 4, 2017

The minutes from the October 4, 2017 meeting were tabled for review at the December 6, 2017 meeting.

4. **Motion:** A motion was made by Bering to adjourn the meeting. Pallotta-McDermott seconded the motion.

Vote: A unanimous vote was reached to adjourn the meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 9:45 PM.