



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
Patrick Towler, Member
Marilyn Salvas, Member
Josh Cofer, Member

MINUTES

Meeting Date: Wednesday, June 4, 2024, 7:00 PM, Remote Meeting on Zoom

Conservation Commission Members Present: Jamie O'Connell, Leo Martin, Rachel Danford (joined at 7:15 pm), Patrick Towler (joined at 7:20 pm), Marilyn Salvas, and Josh Cofer

Absent: Maria Rose (Jamie O'Connell chaired the meeting).

Also Present: Glenn Howard (CDM Smith), Michelle Moon (City of Watertown), Libby Shaw (Trees for Watertown), and Angie Kounelis (former District A City Councilor).

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

O'Connell chaired the meeting and took roll call.

1. Informational update

A. Arsenal Park Phase B update (Mass DEP filing #: 321-0181): Glenn Howard (CDM Smith) and Michelle Moon (City of Watertown) were present to discuss the updates of Phase B construction for Arsenal Park:

- Top course of parking lot pavement completed and will be striped.
- Entrance plaza concrete and promenade finished.
- Playground inspection scheduled for following week.
- Hydroseeding and landscaping completed.
- Provisional landscape acceptance inspection done by Nick Watkins (CDM Smith), Moon, and Swan.
- Minor corrective landscaping measures needed—meeting scheduled with contractor and landscape sub.

- Final playground inspection will be done next week after several outstanding items have been corrected.
- The City is considering a full-time staff as part of the park's operation to oversee it once it is opened.
- A soft opening is scheduled for late June and there will be a ribbon cutting ceremony on July 15th.

Martin asked about the turf area in Phase A and that there has been ongoing issue with dogs using the area - will there be visible signage or fencing to allow the area to regrow? Moon will speak with Bob DiRico of DPW about signage that could direct visitors at the park to take their dogs to the existing dog park.

Public Comments:

- Kounelis of 55 Keenan Street requested having a replacement tree that was dedicated in honor of Diana Proctor many years ago planted in the park now that it is nearing completion. Kounelis shared the original tree for Proctor was moved from Arsenal Park to Phillipello Park, finally behind the library where it eventually perished. She also noted there were tree ceremonies honoring Proctor and Father Metaxas many years ago and she would like the City to look up the records of those tree planting events to carefully memorialize their records. Swan is going to investigate the Tree Warden records shipped over the DPW, and the Conservation records to find any history on the tree planting ceremonies for Proctor and Father Metaxas.

2. Updates

- A. **Chair updates:** O'Connell shared an update on the appeal of the Order of Conditions (MassDEP filing #: 321-0174) filed by Max Hatziliades: Hatziliades appealed to MassDEP on the Commission's decision in 2023, MassDEP upheld the Commission's decision last month, and Hatziliades is appealing MassDEP's decision.
- B. **CPC Update:** O'Connell reported on project updates.
 - 103 Nichols Avenue group home project presentation as part of the application had to be postponed.
 - The Annual Public Hearing will be held on matters related to CPC projects on June 26th.
- C. **Agent Report:**
 - Ongoing Site Monitoring: Swan has been visiting sites to check on the leafing out of vegetation and any erosion control issues.
 - Has been keeping an eye on 580 Pleasant Street and visiting every time there is one (1) inch of rain or more to check on things.

3. Acceptance of Minutes

- A. May 7, 2025, Conservation Commission minutes were approved.

Motion: Salvas made a motion to accept the minutes of the May 7, 2025, meeting. Martin seconded the motion.

Roll Call: Members were polled, and all agreed with the motion. Cofer abstained as he was not at the May 7th meeting.

4. Meeting Adjournment

Motion: Towler made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:50 pm. Martin seconded the motion.

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