



CITY OF WATERTOWN
Conservation Commission
Administration Building
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Maria P. Rose, Vice Chair
Charles C. Bering, Member
Patrick W. Fairbairn, Member
Jamie O'Connell, Member
Darya Mattes, Member

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MINUTES

Meeting Date: Wednesday, May 4, 2022, 7:00 PM, Remote Meeting on Zoom

Conservation Commission Members Present: Leo G. Martin, Maria Rose, Jamie O'Connell, Patrick Fairbairn, Charles C. Bering, Maria Rose, Darya Mattes

Absent: N/A

Also Present: Keith Gazaille, Kara Silwoski

Staff Present: Laurel Schwab, Conservation Agent, Susan C. Jenness, Assistant

Martin chaired the meeting.

- 1. Public Hearing- Continuance has been requested to June meeting) Notice of Intent- O Arlington St. (Williams Pond Parcel)-** to construct a 2-story commercial building and parking lot on property known as the Williams Pond parcel; Max Hatziliandes, Applicant and Owner

The public meeting for the Notice of Intent at 0 Arlington St. was continued to the June meeting per request of the applicant and owner.

- 2. Public Hearing- Continuance has been requested to June meeting) Request for Determination of Non-Applicability-** for the proposed parking lot improvements and utility upgrades located at 10-30 Manley Way, Watertown, Massachusetts. PFF Industrial 20 Seylon, LLC, Owner, Christopher M. Lucas, Representative/Applicant

The public meeting for the Notice of Intent at 0 Arlington St. was continued to the June meeting per request of the applicant and owner.

- 3. Public Hearing- Notice of Intent-Lakes District of the Charles River Department of Conservation and Recreation,**
Owner/SOLitude Lake Management, Representative

Kara Silwoski appeared to represent the Department of Conservation and Recreation Charles River Lakes District, which encompasses the area from Commonwealth Ave. in Newton to the West side of the Watertown Dam.

The primary objective of the NOI is the specific control of submerged and non-native invasive aquatic plant species and to restore and maintain natural capacity of the Charles River to provide suitable open water and native plant habitat. The methodology is an integrated management program for monitoring and prudent use of USEPA/MA Department of Agricultural Resources (MDAR-Registered agricultural herbicide mechanical strategies.

The secondary objective of the plan is to provide a single comprehensive management program that will replace/supersede the other individual programs that have preceded it to allow for better system level management and create a more consistent set of regulatory compliance and oversight for the success of all management efforts while incorporating advances in technology and approach that have been realized more recently.

Sliwoski cited working with Vanness on a proposal that would cover this region of the river over a 5-year management improving special areas of concern listed as objectives of this NOI.

The Charles River Watershed wrote a letter of support of this project that was sent to members of the Conservation Commission on May 2, 2022. The letter supported the use of ProcellaCOR and Sonar as having minimal negative impact to non-targeted plants and the river ecosystem while reducing invasive vegetation. The use of Diquat was not supported and that was due to a recent application in the Mystic River that resulted in a cyanobacteria bloom. The CRWA agreed to work with the DCR on an ongoing basis to provide guidance throughout the project and stated they were overall impressed by their experience working with the DCR and their chosen consultants.

Curran stated that they had agreed not to use Diquat in the project based on the concerns raised by the CRWSA.

Phase One of the Management Plan

- Mechanical and Manual Harvesting
- Large Scale Sonar Herbicide Treatment
- Area Selective ProcellaCOR Herbicide

O'Connell stated the presentation sounded very consistent with the review of the DCR NOI from the previous year.

Martin agreed that the lakes areas is in worse condition

Schwab clarified the application in this project was seeking Ecological Restoration seeking a regular Order of Conditions

Motion: O'Connell made a motion to issue the Order of Conditions to the Charles River Lakes Region Vegetation Management Program. Mattes seconded the motion.

Roll Call: A roll call was taken by the Chair and the motion was agreed to by all members of the Conservation Commission who were present.

4. **Massachusetts Association of Conservation Commissions Certificate of Achievement-** Maria P. Rose received a Certificate of Achievement for her completion of the Conservation Commission Certificate Training Program

Martin announced that Maria Rose was awarded a certificate of achievement by MACC for completion of the Certificate Training Program. Martin expressed that he was proud of Rose for her diligence and commitment to conservation and said that he was very grateful to her for undertaking the work it took to complete this challenge.

5. **Agent Report**

- a. **CPA-** O'Connell reported there were 2 projects that were accepted by the CPC, and they were now ready to go to the City Council. She said a vote on those projects should be taken soon. The projects that made it to this phase were the City Hall Mural Restoration project and the Capital Improvements Plan at Irving Park for renovations that would likely include plantings, pathway development and bike racks. O'Connell also reported there was a request to delay a project presentation on Housing.
- b. **Climate and Energy Plan-** Schwab reported the Climate Energy Plan was referred to the Public Works Sub-Committee and on their agenda for the next meeting and she was hopeful it would be adopted.
- c. **Pollinators-** Schwab reported that she was trying to get some work done with Friends of Bees and Bob Dirico from DPW. She said that she had been informed that Pam Philips had been very busy. Schwab will continue to reach out to all parties over the next month.
- d. **Ongoing Orders of Conditions-** Schwab reported that erosion control measures were in at the DCR Riverfront Park. During an interim project review Schwab confirmed Erosion Control was complete in the Western section. The Eastern section was in progress.
- e. **Arsenal Park-** At a mid-April site visit Schwab found they are now working on a punch list of issues such as fencing, technical updates, etc. It is not Opening to the public is pending after an upcoming plant and electrical inspection coming soon. There was no new Phase B update.

6. **Minutes-**review and approve minutes from April 6, 2022

Martin clarified some discussion from the minutes regarding the Watertown Dam and mention that Mattes was present and should be included in the attendance at the top of the minutes.

Motion: Bering made a motion to accept the minutes of the April meeting. O'Connell seconded the minutes.

Roll Call: A roll call was taken and the minutes from April were approved.

The minutes from the March meeting were continued to the next meeting.

Motion: Bering made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 PM. O'Connell seconded the motion.

Roll Call: A roll call was taken, and all members present agreed to adjourn the meeting.