



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

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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, June 1, 2022, 7:00 PM, Remote Meeting on Zoom

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

Absent: Patrick Fairbairn

Also Present: Hugh Hahn, Laura Laich

Staff Present: Steve Magoon, Assistant City Manager, Laurel Schwab, Conservation Agent, Susan C. Jenness, Assistant

Martin chaired the meeting.

- 1. Public Hearing- Continuance has been requested to July 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 Hatziliades, Applicant and Owner

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

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

The public meeting for the RDA for 10-30 Manley Way was continued to the July meeting per request of the applicant and owner.

- 3. Public Hearing- Notice of Intent- 1 Paramount Place, John Ryan Skating Rink** for the construction of an 8 ft wide stone dust pathway located at 1 Paramount Place, (John Ryan Skating

Rink) taking place within the 200 ft. Riverfront Area. Steve Magoon, Acting Assistant City Manager

Magoon was present to review the proposal with members of the Conservation Commission. The path being proposed is an 8-foot-wide walking path located at the southern edge of the skating rink property. Magoon explained that part of the Charles River Master Plan from 1998 was to create more pedestrian access to the Charles River for recreational purposes. The path as proposed will connect in with the path being built behind 580 Pleasant St., which will allow for pedestrian access from that property, extending into the skating rink area. VHB has designed the path, which is 8 feet wide, made of stone dust, and placed to avoid existing trees as much as possible, connecting in with Cannalonga Park to the east of the skating rink property, as well as up to Pleasant St.

Schwab announced Hugh Hahn and Laura Laich were present and would be happy to answer any questions about the project.

Commission Questions

O'Connell said her one concern was the potential for the path to lead to erosion. Hahn responded that a binding agent is being used to reduce erosion. O'Connell asked if they would clear the path in the winter, when it snows. Magoon said that they had no plans to clear the path of snow at this point, which is consistent with other sections of riverfront path in Watertown. Hahn also pointed out that by using the binding agent, it would improve ADA access, and that Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) had historically used this material and achieved successful results.

Rose inquired if they would likely be getting into the tree line with the construction and equipment, and she inquired if they had designated trees to come down. Magoon responded that possibly over by 580 Pleasant St. they may need to remove a minor tree or two, but he anticipates pruning is more likely. Schwab added that the final exact route of the path would be determined on-site in order to best avoid large trees. Rose noted that the space between the back of the rink building and the river is pretty narrow. She said she wondered how they would get their materials in and out of the site. Hahn responded they intended to use the informal path that already exists today and that only small machinery would be required. Rose asked about stockpiling and Magoon pointed out they plan to use a spot outside the rink where machinery generally dumps after clearing the ice.

Mattes and Bering had no inquiries. Martin said the project looked good to him, and if Cannalonga Park gets some needed updating, this path will be a wonderful connection.

Motion: Mattes made a motion to close the public hearing and to allow for the issuance of an order of conditions for the project. Bering seconded the motion.

Poll: A poll was taken, and all agreed with the motion made by Mattes.

Members of the CC agreed to set conditions at the end of the meeting.

4. Agent Report

- a. CPA- O'Connell Reported the CPC is gearing up for the new round of applications and their next public meeting will be their mandatory annual meeting for 2022. They will be finalizing their draft annual report for 2021, which includes plans for 2022 and some projections for 2023. O'Connell pointed out there is still one housing project that was withdrawn but may move forward after all. O'Connell said she will keep everyone on the Conservation Commission updated.
- b. Climate and Energy Plan- Schwab reported she is hopeful members of City Council will be swift reviewing the Climate and Energy Plan. Rose asked if she would be willing to put it on the agenda at an upcoming meeting so that Schwab can discuss the details with members of the Conservation Commission. Schwab said she would be happy to do that and is well prepared to discuss the subject matter with members of the CC.
- c. Pollinators- Schwab had no updates on the pollinator subject.
- d. Ongoing Orders of Conditions- Schwab reported that the DCR Aquatic Plant Invasives OOC from last month had been reviewed in other communities. She said that they had all adopted many of the same conditions.
- e. Arsenal Park- Schwab reported the fence has come down at the Phase A site so the public can come in and visit now. Magoon said that there was some issue with the colors of the concrete paths but that over time it is going to blend better. He pointed out it is still under warranty if the city needs to replace it.

Magoon reported that CDM Smith is still working on Phase B, continuing design development, and that the play equipment has been pre-ordered. He explained the splash pad will be replaced, and will be incorporated into Phase B. He expects construction should be underway by the fall.

- f. Schwab reported that a resident had contacted the office to request more signage for Whitney Hill at the entrance near Marshall and Oliver Streets. She said she wrote a memo to follow up from the abutters meeting to City Council seeking to have signage created that posts the rules for dogs in a location where they can be seen. Members of the CC were in favor of what she had written and said they would allow her to work with Martin to complete the memo to modify the signage at Whitney Hill Park.

5. **Minutes**-review and approve minutes from April 6, 2022- Members of the CC reviewed the minutes and adopted them as modified by Rose.

Motion: A motion to accept the minutes was made by Bering and seconded by O'Connell.

Roll Call: A roll call was taken, and members agreed with the motion made by Bering.

6. Minutes- review and approve minutes from May 4, 2022

A review of the minutes from the May meeting was held.

Motion: A motion was made by Bering to accept the minutes as proposed. Mattes seconded the motion.

Roll Call: A roll call was taken, and members agreed to accept the motion by Bering.

Martin adjourned the meeting at 8:20 PM.