



Town of Watertown
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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MINUTES

Meeting Date: Wednesday, January 9, 7:00 PM in the Philip Pane Lower Hearing Room

Conservation Commission Members Present: Leo Martin, Maria P. Rose, Jamie O'Connell, Marylouise Pallotta McDermott, Charles Bering

Absent: **Patrick Fairbairn**

Also Present: Town Council Members - *Lisa Feltner, Anthony Donato and Vincent Picirilli, , Ethan Davis - Bike and Ped Committee (BPC), Peter Centola - Recreation Department, Jesse Hammond, BPC, Elodia Thomas, Resident, Libby Shaw, Trees for Watertown, Dennis Duff, member of the Community Preservation Act Committee*

Staff Present: Steve Magoon – *Acting Conservation Commission Agent*, Gideon Schreiber - *Senior Planner*, Susan C. Jenness - *Conservation Assistant*

Martin Chaired.

1. Public Hearing – Parcel 1236-2-0 – for an Abbreviated Notice of Resource Area Delineation (ANRAD) request submitted for the approval of resource area boundary delineation associated with the resource areas located at Parcel 1236-2-0 at 71 Arlington Street. Owner applicant: Maximos Hatziliades. Representative: Michael (Mickey) Marcus, Joseph Rogers, SWCA Environmental, LLC

Christen McDonough appeared on behalf of the Applicant stating that they would like to delineate the area for the intent of redevelopment in the future.

Martin explained that there would need to be a site visit before any decision could be made on the application and that the Commission is in the process of hiring a consultant to support us in the review the submittal. The applicant would need to work out a date for the site visit with Mr. Magoon.

Ms. McDonough explained that she would like to move to amend the request to include the parcel at Sawins Pond. Martin and Magoon said that she would need to file the necessary paperwork in order to meet the requirements in accordance with the filing schedule adopted by the Commission for 2019.

Motion: Rose made a motion to continue the public meeting to the following month. Bering seconded the motion.

Vote: A unanimous vote was reached to continue the public hearing to the following month.

Magoon asked McDonough to get the Sawins Pond Package filed in the Office of Conservation to meet the requirements and then they can schedule a site visit.

2. Conservation Commission Discussion Continuation- Arsenal Park- Discussion on the 25% concept draft plan based on the recommendations made by the Conservation Commission at the March 12, 2018 meeting.

Mellet reported some upgrades since the last meeting to storm water systems.

Mellet reported that updates were made to the following areas based on the suggestions at the last meeting.

- Lighting had been added in the parking area.
- Shared pathway which is a crucial connector path for many groups and paved for accessibility- addition of a stone seat wall barrier and a retaining wall.
- Dugout had been removed and a buffer planting and rain garden had been added.
- Court lighting had been updated on the East and West end.
- Native natural plants had been added to a knoll on the south side.
- A seating area was added to the skate park.
- Excessive pathways were removed behind the pavilion and some trees added for shading.
- Visuals of the elements were shared with the board.

Commission Conversation

O'Connell had no initial comments to make.

Rose mentioned that on line she saw a public relations video on Lincoln Park in Somerville. She said that while this was a different type of project she hoped the Town would look into creating a similar type of video when the Arsenal Park renovation is complete. Rose also brought up Thomas's concern that Community Gardens may not be in the best spot. Magoon answered that they seemed happy with where they were.

O'Connell clarified with Mellet that the Bike Ped group was concerned with the lack of lighting.

Bering and O'Connell both inquired as to the stormwater aspect of the plans. Schreiber explained that Matt Shuman, the Town Engineer would be reviewing the stormwater plans at the next stage of the plans development.

Marylouise Pallotta McDermott said that she was very happy with the designs presented by Mellet and that it was wonderful to see this project coming to fruition after so many years. She congratulated the Planning Department and Mellet for a job well done.

Martin said that more information had come to light for him about the best types of playground surfaces had some points he wanted to make about the playground. He also said he felt there were some remarks at the last meeting by members of the bicycle committee that concerned him about safety of children in the park. The park is for kids and they will not be looking out for bicyclists, it should be the other way around. Ms Mellet indicated that there were methods to slow the bicyclists down and those will be incorporated in the final design.

Martin had a list of items that were discussed during the meeting.

- Bike route through park.
- The need for two basketball courts.
- Addition of adventure type playground across from current playground.
- Addition of rain garden at the south side of the park
- More trees on the grassy area.
- Review the need for bandstand.
- Add cover over the table at the northeast side of the Tot Lot.
- Discuss the court lighting in more detail.
- Trash receptacles.

Public Comments

Andrew Copelotti of the Boylston Properties explained that as direct abutters to the space they would appreciate more passive use on the east end of the park. He also commented on what appeared the additional impervious spaces being added.

One resident said the green space and recreational aspects of the space were great. He also suggested that as a bike commuter he would like to see the Town take some initiatives welcoming bike riders to the destination.

Councilor Anthony Donato inquired if Community Gardens was happy with their space. Magoon explained they were happy with the amount of space they have allocated for their use.

Vice President for the Town Council Vincent Picirilli said he was concerned with buildings going up on the sides of the park and the generators that might go up on the roof tops.

Thomas brought up Lincoln Park in Somerville and encouraged the Town to be more forward thinking and to think bigger. Bigger skate board areas, more space for Community Gardens. She also wondered the space will be maintained and if the rental fee revenues for the park could go towards maintaining the site. She said she wanted to see something spectacular.

Lisa Feltner, Town Councilor District B, is concerned with the design which she said is not forward thinking. She did not agree with the outdoor amphitheater and said that pavilions are not used in parks. She asked the Conservation Commission to use their expertise to step into the process now.

Dennis Duff from Spruce St. said that less is more. More open space, less facilities like basketball. He said he was of the belief this was supposed to be a passive park.

Thomas said that 420 apartments are coming in and wondered why a hockey space was needed.

O'Connell interjected saying this seems like a struggle because this was first supposed to be maintenance and updates, and now it seems like the park of our dreams is being discussed. She asked what the Commission was being charged with.

Magoon said the goal was for a formal planning process. He explained that the Town had gone through a public process to get here to improve Arsenal Park.

Peter Centola spoke and said he was part of the planning process for the park and said that CDM did a great job. He said he liked the updated park a great deal.

Mellet took note of the issues discussed and said she would return to the Commission hopefully the following month with some amendments to the design.

3. Commission Discussion and Review- Whitney Hill Annual Report and Supplemental Memorandum

A review of the Whitney Hill Report written by Fairbairn was held.

Motion: Marylouise Pallotta McDermott made a motion to adopt the report as written by Fairbairn. Rose seconded the motion.

Vote: A unanimous vote was reached adopting the report as written by Fairbairn.

The Commission reviewed designs for a message center to be installed at Whitney Hill with funding provided by Town Council. They selected the first medium design set on two posts for the entrance at Victory Field.

The Commission reviewed two samples of signage for the entrance to the park. The first design was a sign of Prospect Hill Park in the City of Waltham. The second design was a stone post from the Charles River Path.

Piccirilli, Vice President of Town Council recommended that the Town launch a town wide search of local artists who could create a logo for use by the Commission to serve as a design for the sign posted at Whitney Hill Park. He suggested an announcement could go out on Notify Me. Commission members agreed they liked Piccirilli's idea. Magoon said he would send out a Notify Me opening up the search on behalf of the Commission.

4. Minutes- December 5, 2018 Meeting

Review of the minutes was continued to the next Commission meeting.

5. Agent report- The Agent report was continued to the following month.

- a. Commission Member Application Update**
- b. Agent Application Update**
- c. Tree graffiti update at Whitney Hill

Motion: A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 9 PM. The motion was seconded the motion and a unanimous vote was reached to adjourn at 9 PM.