



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, October 3, 2018, 7:00 PM in the Philip Pane Lower Hearing Room

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

Also Present: Peter Centola, Caroline Bays, Torey Spires

Commission Members Absent: N/A

Staff Present: Steve Magoon, Susan C. Jenness

Martin Chaired.

1. Minutes- June 6, 2018 Meeting

Motion: Fairbairn made a motion to accept the minutes of the June 6, 2018 Conservation Commission (CC) meeting as modified. Pallotta McDermott seconded the motion.

Vote: A unanimous vote was reached accepting the minutes of the June 6, 2018 Conservation Commission meeting minutes.

2. Minutes- September 5, 2018 Meeting

Motion: Pallotta McDermott made a motion to accept the minutes of the September 5, 2018 Conservation Commission meeting as modified. Rose seconded the motion.

Vote: A unanimous vote was reached accepting the minutes of the September 5, 2018 Conservation Commission meeting minutes.

3. Commission Discussion- Selection of member from the Conservation Commission for a seat on the Community Preservation Act (CPA) Committee.

The CC held a brief discussion about selecting a candidate from their board for the Community Preservation Act Committee. After a brief discussion was held a motion was made to select a candidate.

Motion: A motion was made by Pallotta McDermott naming Rose as the Conservation Commission member selected for the Community Preservation Committee. Fairbairn seconded the motion.

Vote: A unanimous vote was reached naming Rose as the Conservation Commission member selected for the Community Preservation Committee.

4. Commission Discussion- Faire on the Square on September 22, 2018

Martin introduced the topic of the CC participation at the Faire on the Square at a table near the W3CE Committee Table.

Martin recognized Schreiber for his efforts in supporting the CC by creating posters and maps used to promote the CC at the Faire.

Martin handed over the floor to Fairbairn. Fairbairn passed out copies of a questionnaire he created and used at the Faire to the members of the CC, and other attendees at the CC meeting.

Fairbairn created the questionnaire to rate the categories listed on the form by prioritizing each category as a potential focus for the CC in the future.

After they were all filled out, the questionnaires were collected during the meeting, and the results were tallied by Fairbairn and read off by him in the order listed below.

In closing, he also urged the Town to consider ways of distributing the questionnaire to more residents in the future.

- Acquisition of Open Space
- Climate Change
- Anti-pollution advocacy
- Collaborative Education Programs
- Animal and species management
- Assessment and Promotion of Landscape values.

5. Agent report

- a. Sewer overflow southeast of Walkers Pond- Magoon reported that Matt Shuman the Town Engineer had gone out to the site to investigate. Shuman found no overflow but flushed the line through to determine more information about the issue. Magoon reported that Shuman plans to flush the area all the way up to the watershed to confirm the size of the issue and said that this should also clear out the blockage.
- b. GSA site walk- Magoon walked the GSA site with Erin Kirby, project manager and said he found the spot beautiful after the restoration. Also at the site visit, Magoon reported there was also some representation from Department of Public Works (DPW) and the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR).

Magoon referred to the notes about the site provided to him by Nancy Hammet and said he found them very accurate with what he discovered at the site himself.

Magoon said that Phragmites which is an overgrown and undesirable grass found in marsh areas, is out of control and that the swales appear inundated with it and that is something that needs to be addressed. Magoon reported that he also saw numerous animal boroughs that did not appear to be occupied at the time of the visit.

Magoon reported that the DCR has ownership of the site now, but they are currently seeking funding to subsidize future updates to the site. He noted installation of a path way is expected, and that there is a fence down that needs to be addressed and some new signage is anticipated.

Magoon noticed a telephone pole with a transformer on it that is still present and also one swale on the Greenough Boulevard side that is currently overflowed and said both issues need to be addressed.

Magoon said that there have been no issues reported through the monitoring of the site and concluded it is performing as it was designed to.

Nancy Hammet had mentioned in her report that she shared with Magoon that the opportunity for comment on the site was not advertised in a way that widely enough reached parties who would have been interested in commenting on the 5 year report.

- c. Status of search for new Conservation Commission Agent- Magoon reported he is still interviewing candidates to fill the vacancy of the Conservation Commission Agent.
- d. Status of construction at Filippello Park- Peter Centola reported that he expects a Mid-November completion date of the park and that he visits the site every Wednesday and Glen Howard who is the project manager visits on Fridays.

Centola mentioned that curbing is being re-used at the site and that the boundaries of the dog park are indicative of a very generous space for the dogs to exercise and play in.

He reported that there have been no concerns reported with the soil and informed the CC that he has numerous photographs of the park up that are up on his web site and available for their use in the future if there is a desire.

- e. Status of design drawings for Arsenal Park- Magoon reported that the surveys have been complete and that a site visit will occur on 10/4/2018. The design drawings are expected to be at about 25% by October or November. He reported to Martin that he anticipates the plans may be back to the CC by the time of the December meeting.
- f. Follow-up on the state's MVP Program- Martin spoke of meeting Meredith Field the Chair of the WE3C Committee and that he informed her of the CC's intention to participate in the MVP program. He reported the next WE3C meeting is October 15th and that Field will approach the committee with some information about MVP.

Motion: Fairbairn made a motion that the CC will support the Town dialogue about a Climate Change Plan. Pallotta McDermott seconded the motion.

Vote: A unanimous vote was reached that the CC will support the Town dialogue about a Climate Change Plan.

- g. Status of interviews for new members for the Conservation Commission- Magoon reported that no new applicants have filed an application letter with the Town Managers Office to date. Fairbairn reported that they passed out about 15 information leaflets at the Faire to potential new candidates. Magoon told CC members that he will follow up with the Town Manager about getting more information circulated out to the public about the vacancies on the CC.
- h. U.S. Army Corp of Engineers Proposed Project under the Comprehensive Environmental Response Compensation and Liability Act- Magoon briefed CC members about the proposed project documents submitted by the US Army Corp of Engineers. He explained that they are not required to file a Notice of Intent for the project, and that it is filed under the Comprehensive Environmental Response Compensation and Liability Act.

Martin said he wanted the block wall along the river to be granite right up to the top to prevent gas from flowing into the river. He also suggested permeable pavers for the last 8 feet before the river.

Bering clarified that while the US Army Corp of Engineers are not required to apply to the CC for a permit on this project, they are still required to meet all the standards that would apply to a permitted project.

Rose, Fairbairn and O'Connell said they had no immediate concerns. Martin restated his concern that run off will be allowed to flow straight into the river.

Magoon said he would call the US Army Corp of Engineers to appear at the November CC meeting for a discussion and to answer any questions the CC had about this project.

Fairbairn introduced the topic that he had seen several trees at Whitney Hill that were spray painted with negative language. He said that given the limitations of the CC's authority at Whitney Hill Park they will require someone from another entity to step in to address this matter.

Motion: A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Rose. The motion was seconded by O'Connell.

Vote: A unanimous vote was reached to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 PM.