



City of Watertown
Conservation Commission
Administration Building
149 Main St.
Watertown, MA 02472

Maria P. Rose, Chair
Leo Martin, Member
Jamie O'Connell, Member
Darya Mattes, Member
Rachel Danford, Member

MINUTES

Meeting Date: Wednesday, December 6, 2023, 7:00 PM, Remote Meeting on Zoom

Conservation Commission Members Present: Maria Rose, Leo Martin, Darya Mattes, Jamie O'Connell, Rachel Danford

Absent: N/A

Also Present: James Borrebach (OHI Engineering, Inc.), Michael Albano (Watertown Department of Public Works), and Jill Ayers

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

Rose chaired the meeting.

1. Public Hearing: Notice of Intent (Continued to December 6, 2023) -- located off 0 Arlington Street, between 71 Arlington Street and 15 Arlington Street (MA DEP #: 321-0186) - construction of 41, 289 square feet (sf) of pervious parking area on the north side of Sawins Pond, extending from the existing paved parking lot, within the 100-foot Buffer Zone of Vegetated wetlands and Inland Bank and locally regulated 150-foot Buffer Zone. Polina Safran, Representative from SWCA, Max Hatziliades, Owner.
2. Public Hearing: Request for an Extension of Order of Conditions - 23 Elm Street (MA DEP #: 321-0172). 23 Elm Street Property Owner, LLC, and OHI Engineering, Inc., James R. Borrebach, Representative.

James Borrebach (OHI Engineering, Inc.) was present to discuss the request for an extension of the Order of Conditions (OOC) for three years. Borrebach stated that the northern side of the parcel still needs landscaping and is expected to start in the spring of 2024. Per the OOC, the applicant is required for two (2) years to monitor and assure the survival of the plantings.

Motion: Martin made a motion to extend the Order of Condition for MA DEP #: 321-0172 for a period of three years. O'Connell seconded the motion.

Roll Call: Rose took a roll call and all members agreed with the motion made by Martin.

3. Commission Discussion: Updates on Standard Special Conditions -- The subcommittee for *Updates on Standard Special Conditions* has not met since the last meeting and will continue working on sections that will be ready to share with the Commission in a future meeting. Rose asked members to keep in mind the peri-urban nature of Watertown versus other communities are characterized by farmland or more abundant open space. Rose clarified that the *Interim Standard Special Conditions* were in effect.
4. CPC Update: O'Connell noted that the upcoming CPC meeting will be held in January and there will be presentations of the applications that will be reviewed which the public is welcome to attend.
5. Agent Report:
 - A. Swan has recently communicated with Liz Cremens, Chair of the Resident Advisory Committee, about the long standing vacancies. Cremens will reach out to the Chair for input on potential candidates. Mattes informed members she will be stepping down in June, leaving an additional vacancy on the board.
 - B. 99 Coolidge (DEP #: 321-0175): Swan visited the site on November 7th and 14th. The majority of the landscaping was completed last month. Invasive plant remediation and complete bank stabilization planting had to be pushed back to Spring 2024. VHB and Frannie's landscaping installed coir logs along the bank edge of the stream and Tubelings were planted in the streambank per the streambank stabilization and invasive plant remediation plans. Martin asked Swan if she noticed whether the banks on the site looked like they could hold up until spring in the event of intense rain events. Swan noted that jute mats and seeding have been installed to help stabilize the bank until spring and will check on it this month. The permit is set to expire in May of 2024 and the applicant will need to request an extension of the permit.

C. Phase B Arsenal Park: Arsenal Park Phase B is out to bid. The City has received playground equipment that is in storage until Phase B is completed. The City is in the procurement process and awaiting the selection of a contractor. Mike Albano was present from the Department of Public Works, and he explained the documents for the bidding process are up on the DPW website and can be found under the section for procurement. He said bids were being accepted up to December 20, 2023.

6. Acceptance of Minutes: Acceptance of Minutes from the November 1, 2023, Conservation Commission meeting.

Motion: Martin made a motion to accept the minutes as amended prior to the meeting and the comments made at the meeting. Mattes seconded the motion made by Martin.

Roll Call: Rose took a roll call and the motion made by Martin was unanimously approved.

Motion: Martin made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:45 pm. O'Connell seconded the motion made by Martine.

Roll Call: Rose took a roll call that was unanimously approved by all members present.