



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

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Marylouise Pallotta McDermott, Member
Charles C. Bering, Member
Patrick W. Fairbairn, Member
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Jamie O'Connell, Member

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MINUTES

Meeting Date: Wednesday, November 7, 2018, 7:00 PM in the Philip Pane Lower Hearing Room

Conservation Commission Members Present: Patrick Fairbairn, Maria P. Rose, Jamie O'Connell, Charles Bering

Absent: Marylouise Pallotta McDermott, Leo Martin

Also Present: Lee Thibodeau, *US Army Corp of Engineers, (USACE)*, Lauren Jacobs, *USACE*

Staff Present: Steve Magoon, *Acting Agent*, Louise Civetti, *Acting Clerk*

Rose Chaired.

Wednesday, November 7, 2018, 7:00 p.m., Philip Pane Hearing Room

Agenda:

1. Informational Meeting: Watertown Yacht Club cap maintenance

Lee Thibodeau and Lauren Jacobs, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), explained their plan to maintain the corrective clean-up, completed in 2000 and reviewed every 5 years. The retaining wall will be replaced with a sheet pile wall and backfilled with stone. The parking lot granite block wall will have the blocks re-inserted and the area of the parking lot re-paved. They will not be repairing any area 2' below the surface of the water; excavation is not expected; no reduction in the surface grade.

A discussion ensued regarding the permitting process and if a permit would be necessary. A permit through the Wetlands Protection Act (WPA), "Form 6", Notice of Non-significance, would require a DEP file number and the USACE will not be filing for this. The area of repair is approximately 350 s.f. The WPA states that any area less than 500 s.f. would not require a permit through the WPA. The USACE did not submit a request for NOI or OOC. No additional paperwork is required. This is what the EPA/DEP has decided.

Further discussion on what this commission should do to approve this work. A suggestion of a letter written by this commission, addressing the scope of work be sent. It was decided that the meeting notes would provide enough information.

Mr. Thibodeau and Ms. Jacobs further explained that the excavation that took place in 2000, as part of the Arsenal Site clean-up, limits/restricts (AUL) any work to be done that is more than 2' below the surface. If they were to work on an area of more than 2' below surface, they would have a temporary excavation which would be allowed to be open for no more than 18 days for the membrane to be put back in place. Their mediation plan includes storm water infiltrating the backfill stone. The sheet pile wall has a 50 year life span.

Mr. Fairbairn asked if this work is not significant and no mitigation is required; is there other impacts to the floodwater storage? Mr. Thibodeau explained that the easement does not allow further excavation.

Ms. O'Connell asked if there will be any impact to the water flow as there is a curve in the bank. Ms. Jacobs explained that there is no inflow of water in the area of repair.

Ms. Rose asked if there will be an impact to the floodplain due to the infill. Mr. Thibodeau stated that they did not look at that. This was former Army property and there is not a way to replicate private property. They will provide calculations on the flood storage.

Ms. Jacobs explained that the sheet pile wall will be approximately 140' long and the slope will be approximately 2-3' (maximum 3' above the water level). Their timeframe is between May – September when the boats are out of the parking lot. They will require approval by December 1st in order to complete the process on their end.

Mr. Thibodeau said he will send the Town a notice addressing Mr. Bering's concerns about the statute cited in this project.

Mr. Fairbairn requests more information on impact and if there is concern to the marine fishery. Mr. Thibodeau will have a letter submitted to this commission from the Department of Ecological Restoration (stating that the Spring-time herring run will not be impacted).

Mr. Bering asked if the yacht club will need to move their docks. Mr. Thibodeau assured the commission that it would not be necessary.

Ms. Rose asked what the volume of $\frac{3}{4}$ stone would be for the fill and how silt will be prevented. Mr. Thibodeau will provide the volume. There will be an in-water silt curtain (20') to protect the river. No other land side siltation.

In summary:

The Commission will wait for the following to be summited before deciding how to move forward.

1. How much fill will be placed?

2. Confirmation from the Division of Ecological Restoration that the herring run will not be impacted.

Documents reviewed: Report from USACE with several photographs (figures 1-9); Attachment “Sheet ID G-101 - Retaining Wall Repair”; “Table 1: Plant Species List for Watertown Yacht Club”.

2. Minutes

The minutes of October 3, 2018 were reviewed and several minor grammatical errors corrected. Mr. Fairbairn motioned to accept the minutes. Ms. O’Connell seconded. All in favor. Members Fairbairn, O’Connell, Bering and Rose voted in the affirmative. The minutes are approved.

3. 2019 Meeting and Filing Dates

The Commission chose January 9 vs. January 2, 2019 and July 17 vs. July 3 or 10, 2019. Mr. Fairbairn will not be in attendance on January 9, 2019. All other dates agreed upon.

Ms. O’Connell motioned to accept the 2019 calendar of meeting and filing dates. Mr. Fairbairn seconded. Members O’Connell, Fairbairn, Bering and Rose voted in the affirmative. The calendar is approved.

4. Agent Report: Steve Magoon, *Acting Agent*

a. Update on new agent: the references for a female agent are currently being checked

b. Update on new members: No new applications received; however, a request to the Town Manager to review applications for potential members to be interviewed will be done.

c. Update on design drawings for Arsenal Park: 25% design drawings will be submitted to this Commission for the December meeting. Once this commission agrees to the 25% design, further design will take place.

d. Update on Whitney Hill Report to TC: There may be budgetary implications. The markers, kiosk (mop, signage, granite with words) are being discussed. No need for formal request.

A discussion on protocol for commission members to request action items to the agent ensued. Mr. Magoon suggested that re-establishing boundaries will be necessary and becoming more involved in the future, if they have time, would be welcomed.

e. Status of tree graffiti: Mr. Magoon will follow-up with Mr. Hayward regarding how to treat the graffiti. Mr. Fairbairn stated removal vs. cover-up may be more beneficial to the tree and the longer the graffiti is there, the more enticing it is for others to follow suit.

f. Filippello Park construction: Mr. Magoon stated the park is progressing well. The dog park will be completed on Monday. They are moving elements from Whitney Hill to the park for the dogs to play on (tree limbs, etc.). The tree planting is scheduled for next week. The markings on the courts will wait until spring.

Mr. Magoon reported on a meeting he had with DCR regarding the GSA Site vegetation plan for the Charles River corridor. They may present information to this commission in December or January. They have characterized the banks into 6 categories – all below the Watertown dam. Mr. Fairbairn suggested the Phragmites be eradicated before DCR hands over the property (to the public). The Army Corp is done.

Mr. Bering motioned to adjourn. Ms. O’Connell seconded. Voted 4-0. The meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.