

Minutes
Watertown Conservation Commission
Lower Hearing Room
Wednesday, November 5, 2014
7:30 p.m.

Conservation Commission Members Present: Marylouise Pallotta McDermott, Patrick W. Fairbairn, Maria P. Rose, Charles C. Bering.

Commission Members Absent: Louis Taverna, Leo G. Martin

Staff Present: Christopher J. Hayward, Susan C. Jenness

Pallotta McDermott chaired.

1) Certificate of Compliance Request-Watertown Mews Repton Place (Formerly 555 Pleasant Street)-DEP# 321-0104 WWO-03-6-Beacon Residential Properties.

Bob Carter of H.W. Moore Associates, Inc. represented. He stated that there was one minor deviation to the plans which was to spread out additional plants in the buffer zone. Additional trees and plants were supplemented into the plan. Pavement in that area, which had been in place since the demolition of the former Quincy Cold Storage building, was removed.

The Conservation Agent visited the site in August. The spreading of the plants looked nice and there is a row of mature trees along the northern property line edge. There was a request for a dog park, but the area lacked sufficient space to install one outside of the 50-foot No Build zone. There were some mature trees saved on the easterly side of the site along Stanley Ave.

Rose voiced concern about the vegetation that sat for prolonged periods of time before being planted. Mr. Carter assured her that the vegetation arrived ahead of schedule as sometimes happens but the plants will be guaranteed for at least one or two years.

The Agent added that Mill Creek has a history of being very responsive to such concerns in the past and recommended that the commission issue the Certificate of Compliance.

Motion: Rose motioned that the commission issue the Certificate of Compliance. Fairbairn seconds the motion.

Vote: A vote is held and a unanimous decision is reached to issue the Certificate of Compliance for Watertown Mews Repton Place.

2) Certificate of Compliance Request-Alta at the Estate, 225 Waltham Street-DEP# 321-0147 and WWO-11-05-WP East Acquisitions, LLC.

John Bensley, PE of Beals and Thomas, Inc. appeared before the commission for a presentation.

Rose stated that she is concerned with how much the vegetation is encroaching on the walkways. Maintaining the walkways according to the Agent is not in the scope of the Order of Conditions. He offered that it would be helpful if the residents took part in maintaining them.

Fairbairn asked about the dog park. Bensley replied that the grass looks wonderful and the pet waste bags are being used of and disposed of properly. A doggy drinking fountain has been installed. The dog park is very tasteful but not over used.

The Agent stated that this large development is interesting because Walker Pond has been incorporated into the site and the public is invited to come and enjoy the space. Initially there was a bench next to the pond which had been facing the parking lot of BJ's. He mentioned it to the developers and they turned the bench around so that it now faces the pond. There has been some evidence of litter on occasion, but he asserted that it is prudent for the residents to keep an eye on that and to pick up litter on occasions when it is seen.

At this point all areas have been stabilized and any areas of erosion have been built back up. Silt fence and hay bale twine has all been removed. The vegetation swales in the country drain system fill up and then flow back down into the wetlands efficiently. He has spotted snakes, rabbits, possum and occasional blue heron.

The dog park was reported to be working well when he spoke to the residents about it. He concluded that this project has enhanced the area for the public and maybe an Earth Day Clean-up for Walker Pond should be considered in the future.

Rose agreed that this site adds to the neighborhood and the owners did a wonderful job.

The Agent recommended that the commission members issue the Certificate of Compliance.

Motion: Bering motioned that the commission members issue the Certificate of Compliance for Alta at the Estate. Fairbairn seconds the motion.

Vote: A vote was taken and all members of the commission unanimously agree to issue the Certificate of Compliance.

3) Discussion held on Filippello Park- McDermott announced that there is ongoing soil testing being done around the former incinerator site at the park and the results should be

available and published in a report in December. She stated further that it seems things should get moving around the springtime.

Rose inquired about the nature of the testing and the Agent replied that soil samples are being taken.

Fairbairn asked about the nature of the report and the Warden said they are looking for contaminants.

- 4) **Minutes from October 1, 2014 meeting are approved with minor modifications to attendance based on a motion made by Fairbairn and seconded by Bering and unanimously approved.**

- 5) **Agent Reports:** The survey has been completed at Whitney Hill. He presented plans to Fairbairn. He urged members to put together recommendations to give to the town council for the Annual Report.

The Storm Water Advisory Committee meets again in two weeks.

The Tree Warden is preparing to plant new trees in November and he asked commission members to remind their neighbors to call him if they want a tree planted.

The Agent urged commission members to go out and walk through these new development sites to observe storm water systems and report to him what their observations are.

Meeting adjourned at 9:10 PM.