

Minutes
Watertown Conservation Commission
Town Council Chambers
Wednesday, February 1, 7:30 p.m.

Conservation Commission Members Present: Marylouise Pallotta McDermott, Leo G. Martin, Patrick Fairbairn, Louis Taverna, Maria P. Rose

Commission Members Absent: Charles C. Bering

Staff Present: Christopher J. Hayward, Susan C. Jenness (adopted 4.5.17)

Pallotta McDermott chaired.

1) Minutes from January 18, 2017 meeting

After a brief discussion and minor modification, a motion was made on the minutes from the Conservation Commission Meeting on January 18, 2017.

Motion: Rose made a motion to approve the minutes from January 18, 2017 with the minor modification agreed upon. Taverna seconded the motion.

Vote: A unanimous vote was reached approving the minutes from the January 18, 2017 meeting.

2) New Business

- a. Discussion of the notification of abutters and general public regarding Whitney Hill Annual Report (2016); for presentation and discussion of the report at March 1, 2017 Conservation Commission meeting, and ensuing citizen questions and commentary.

Hayward explained that he had generated a list of abutters that went out 300 ft. from the parcel of Whitney Hill. A discussion was held about expanding the list further in some directions but it was agreed the current list was a good one. Hayward said he would add some parcels where it made sense without incurring too much extra cost.

Hayward said he would reconfigure the abutters list and send that with the letter to clerk for the Conservation Office for processing and mailing at least two weeks prior to the meeting on March 1, 2017.

Hayward began a discussion about plans for the presentation and asked for CC members thoughts.

Fairbairn said that he will be leading the discussion by presenting the Annual Report and Plan of Whitney Hill for the educational activities that took place in 2016. Hayward asked him if it was possible to include the teachers of the students who are involved in the ongoing scientific research at Whitney Hill and Fairbairn said that he would reach out to invite them to participate although they both live out of the town and may not travel back to make an appearance.

Hayward offered to prepare some photographs for Fairbairn to use during his presentation.

The clerk for the Conservation Office said she will post the Whitney Hill Annual Report and Plan onto the Conservation Commission web site where she said a link already exists. She also said she will prepare a “notify me” which will be sent to all Conservation Subscribers when the report has been posted. The “notify me” will also contain the date, time and location of the informational meeting that will be integrated into the monthly Conservation Commission meeting.

b. Discussion on the archiving of selected Conservation Commission documents for easy reference on the Town website (e.g. Whitney Hill Annual Reports and related documents – maps, data forms, spreadsheet database etc.)

Members of the CC discussed the potential of posting Conservation related documents up onto the web site. Their initial thought was that they would like to have the Whitney Hill Report and Plan posted up onto the web site. The clerk explained that this was a simple process that she would take care of as soon as the document was prepared and delivered to the town manager.

The discussion turned to posting various documents from projects, but also to various maps of the wetlands as well.

The clerk explained that the current archives for the Conservation web page holds a space for agendas and minutes for every meeting. Therefore documents that fit into that category had a place to be filed already.

The clerk explained that in order to create space for varied documents to be made accessible on the web site would require a reconfiguration of the current CC web page archive as it exists now. She explained that in order to provide web site

access to documents from Conservation projects as a regular feature on the page would likely require an expansion of the web site page to include an additional page where the project documents would be filed. This type of expansion would require additional authorization and technical assistance and careful planning.

Rose requested a large, color coded map to depict wetland boundaries available on the web site and Hayward explained that such a map exists on the town GIS system available up on the town web site.

c. Suggested items for the March 2017 CC meeting Agenda.

Hayward said that Arsenal Yards, which is also known as Arsenal Project, will likely come in for a public hearing on their Notice of Intent.

Hayward reported that Steve Magoon, Director of Community Development and Planning was likely to select a design Sub- Committee for the Arsenal Connector and that he planned to know more at the March meeting.

Pallotta McDermott requested an update on Filippello Park.

Hayward reported that they are already ripping apart asphalt and putting erosion control measures into place at the bridge replacement site.

Hayward also reported that he was contacted by Jeff Enochs, the arborist for the DCR who had some questions for him about some trees along California Street. Hayward met him for a site visit and saw some tree stumps and paths that were looking ripped up as well. The DCR is now conducting maintenance work to replace the asphalt and dead trees.

Motion: A motion was made by Martin to adjourn the meeting. Taverna seconded the motion.

Vote: A unanimous vote was reached to adjourn the meeting.

Meeting adjourned.