



City of Cambridge Conservation Commission

147 Hampshire Street
Cambridge, MA 02139
Ph. 617.349.4680

Jennifer Letourneau, Director

jletourneau@cambridgema.gov

Public Meeting – Monday, September 24, 2018 at 7:00PM 147 Hampshire Street, Main Conference Room

MEETING MINUTES

The following meeting minutes were taken by Tracy Dwyer and are respectfully submitted.

Present Commission Members: Purvi Patel (Chair), Kaki Martin, Ted Pickering, David Lyons and Jennifer Letourneau (Director)

Absent Commission Members: Elysse Magnotto-Cleary and 2 Vacancies

Attendees: James Wilcox, Cambridge Public Works; Miles Connor, Parterre; Tracy Dwyer, Cambridge Public Works; Ken Nugent

Purvi Patel opened the hearing.

7:04 - Notice of Intent

Danehy Park Swale – Vegetation Management Plan

James Wilcox from Public Works stated that in 2000 the City had come before the commission for the stormwater management project on Bellis Circle. This project was to alleviate flooding in the Bellis Circle neighborhood which was from run off from Danehy Park. A swale was constructed between Danehy Park and Bellis Circle properties, as well as a stormwater pump station with a fifty (50) gallon tank. James stated there has been no flooding in the neighborhood since the construction in 2000. There is regular maintenance on the pump station and regular cleaning of the tank. The City would like to start regular maintenance of the swale area which at the point would require stopping the growth of invasive species. Miles Connors from Parterre, who currently holds a contract with the City explained the activities. The first application would be this fall using an herbicide and swipe procedure as well as some mowing. Miles stated this would also require another round of cleaning and application next season as well. Kaki Martin asked how the growth is impacting the stormwater collection now? James stated there is no impact now and there has been no flooding but the City is taking action to mitigate any flooding issues. Kaki also asked how long the cleaning would take? Miles stated this type of cleaning takes about three (3) years and three (3) seasons, five (5) years is the maximum amount of time, because of the fragmentizes and knotweed. Public comment was opened, there were no comments. Public comment was unanimously closed. The Commission unanimously approved with the special condition that Parterre submit an annual cleaning report.

7:17 - Administrative Topics

Meeting Minutes – July 16, 2018: Unanimously Approved, with two (2) noted edits

Conservation Commission Updates: Recent Activities of the Friends of Alewife Reservation (FAR) are under review by the DCR. The Commission discussed what their actions should be with FAR after the Cease and Desist letter was sent to FAR from the DCR following their June 12, 2018 activities. The Commission has agreed that they would sent out a letter to FAR recognizing the DCR Cease and Desist to explain to the FAR what the proper procedures are for having such activities on DCR property in the City.

7:36 - Other Business

Jennifer stated that interviews have begun today, September 24th and will conclude on October 2nd for 2 vacancies on commission.

Jennifer also stated that construction is on-going on various projects in the City; Magazine Beach launch dock is going well and they are at the moment waiting on a wood delivery. The project over in Cambridge Common near the river, they are currently erecting tower A and the pad for it. The Rail to Trail project in Fresh Pond is on-going currently working on removing ties and rails and also working on tree removal and thinning. Purvi asked if the lighting issue has been resolved? Jennifer stated not yet, there is a mockup of the lighting at Danehy Park behind the Bristol Arms apartments. The Talbot Street Outfall project will be starting up in the next four (4) months (winter/spring). Jennifer and James are working with them on their lay down area and traffic management, pedestrian and bike access plans, the project has about a one (1) year duration.

7:40 - Meeting Adjourned