



City of Cambridge Conservation Commission

147 Hampshire Street
Cambridge, MA 02139
Ph. 617.349.4680

Jennifer Letourneau, Director

jletourneau@cambridgema.gov

Public Meeting – Monday, June 21, 2021 at 7:00 PM 147 Hampshire Street, Main Conference Room MEETING MINUTES

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

Present Commission Members: Jennifer Letourneau (Director), Purvi Patel (Chair), David Lyons (Vice Chair), Erum Sattar, Kathryn Hess, Michelle Lane, Elysse Magnotto-Cleary, Kaki Martin

Absent Commission Members:

Attendees: Tracy Dwyer, DPW; Ryan Corrigan, Parterre; Jason Ferster; Bryan Walsh, VHB; Jacob Kain; Kyle Langlois, VHB; Lisa Kumpf, Charles River Conservancy; Tom Congoran, Longfellow Real Estate Partners; Ale Echandi, DCR; Amy Walker, Charles River Conservancy; Ed Leflore, CSL; Steven Nutter, Green Cambridge; James Rafferty, Adams & Rafferty; Janet Burns; Ralph Brown; Vanessa Curran, DCR; Anne Carroll, DCR

Purvi Patel opened the meeting.

7:01 – Request to Amend OOC DEP File #123-195 150 Cambridgepark Drive VHB

Tom Congoran from Longfellow Real Estate Partners representing owners of 100, 125, 150 Cambridgepark Drive, gave a brief update of the project. Construction began in 2019, They are 65% through construction at this point, expect 100% complete construction at the end of the year. Tom introduced the team with him Jacob Kain, Jason Ferster, landscape architect and Bryan Walsh Civil Engineer from VHB. Bryan gave an overview of the proposed elevator shaft in the southwest corner and freight elevator which will improve accessibility throughout the campus with will not impose any impacts to the floodplain. This project will add a loading dock, which will in turn add additional flood storage and a new electric yard. 5437 cubic feet of flood storage, now up to 7140 cubic feet of flood storage, added more during construction, regrading for new electric duct bank conflict, now up to a total of 7884 cubic feet. Amenity deck in the north corner, which would pass through the amenity deck with flood storage underneath the deck. These were in response to Jim Wilcox's comments regarding flood storage.

Erum Sattar was wondering about the background on the new construction and elevator, at what point did you know you needed these additions.

Tom said in the last six months after the Order of Conditions was received, construction was slow due to the pandemic and broke the construction into two phases. Found out that some of the tenants in life science which they were going after demanded a designated elevator/freight elevator currently they only have four (4) passenger elevators now. They didn't get this information until six months ago, so it was not included in the original project.

Kathryn how much impervious space was added by adding a loading dock? The impervious area that was very nominal. Bryan said one loading dock was existing and then they added a second loading dock and freight elevator.

David Lyons asked about the impervious area with overhang at the loading dock. Bryan said most of it was roof area was it was nominal.

7:19 – Public Comment Closed

7:28 – The commission unanimously approved Order of Conditions (subject to the conditions in Jim Wilcox's memo)

7:28 – Request for Certificate of Compliance
DEP File #123-178
Lechmere Canal
VHB

Ed Lefore from CSL representing DivoWest and Kyle from VHB were in the meeting. Jennifer Letourneau, Director of Conservation Commission speaking on their behalf. Jennifer stated that this project was part of the on-going mitigation of the Northpoint project. A new outfall pipe installed at the Lechmere Canal. The work was completed but waited a year to close out the project to make sure the sod took to the site. Jennifer reported that the site looks better than before they started the project. Jim Wilcox and Jennifer Letourneau agree to approve the Certificate of Compliance. David stated that there is already a three-year monitoring period for the sod and plantings.

Erum said it was very helpful for Jennifer's report and pictures.

Kathryn asked if the picture would become part of the file. Jennifer said yes.

Jennifer said there was also an art installation that was also restored.

No Public Comment

7:26 – Public Comment Closed

7:27 – The commission unanimously approve the Certificate of Compliance with three-year monitoring period.

7:30 - Notice of Intent

DEP File # TBD

River Restore Project – Alewife Reservation
Green Cambridge

Steven Nutter Executive Director of Green Cambridge and Ryan Corrigan from Parterre representing the project. Green Cambridge has been working in Cambridge since 2004, Green Cambridge is an interpretive science non-profit for kids and adults. In 2019 Green Cambridge took over the Friends of Alewife and now has one hundred and thirty (130) acres as part of our spaces we use.

River Restore project inspired by the past president Ellen Maas, which is a two thousand and eight hundred (2800) square of space to do invasive species plant management and restore native plants. They use mayors program youth and UMass Students to help with the project.

Ryan Corrigan from Parterre who has worked in the Alewife Reservation are over the last three years, talked about the project which will restore a planting zone which is a DCR property near the Little River in the Alewife Reservation. The area consists of Blackberry, Japanese Knott Weed, Buck Thorn, Honey Suckle, Bittersweet, Multi Flora Rose and Elderberry. The project lies in the floodplain and within one hundred feet of the river.

David Lyons asked if it was a half-acre they are working on. How big is the reservation? Ryan stated that the Alewife Reservation is about 3.75 acres.

Jennifer Letourneau stated that decade ago the City completed a construction wetland project which clean stormwater was diverted out of MWRA system and back into Little River and under the care of Parterre.

Ryan stated that the invasive species would be cut, stems treated with dabbing treatment. The project is low risk with damage, only Parterre staff with be doing the application. Youth will be doing a lot of cutting and removal. Making habitat piles with species that don't have fruit, habitat piles would be good for small animals and birds.

Japanese Knotweed would use a stem drop treatment over a two-year period. Schedule for optimal timing, the first three Fridays in July would be for removal and the last three Fridays would be for planting.

Over seeding and stabilized would be laid down to prevent erosion, with deer fencing to protect plantings.

Jennifer stated that this area is a protected area and the area is protected by rails. She said the area was well off the path so public would not be around.

David asked how would the access to the area be done? Ryan said there was a dedicated contractor spot within the area and would coordinate a time to use the area. Essex Horticultural

now has the contract for the Alewife Reservation and they would need to coordinate with them for space.

David asked who would Parterre coordinate with? Jennifer said she would help with coordination.

Steve Nutter agreed with and committed with an annual report. Ryan also stated it would be a good learning experience for the youth.

Jennifer can send examples of reporting.

David asked who would take the lead role? Steven said Green Cambridge would take the lead role and would check on and monitor/maintain the area.

Ale Echandi, Ecologist from DCR, she stated DCR is fully in support of the project and will help out. She said the reporting should also be like Hells Half Acre. She said that the fencing would look a lot like the fencing at Magazine Beach, which has been successful.

Kathryn is supportive of this but realizes this is a three-year commitment and was wondering about the financial support.

Steven said the Green Cambridge is a 501c3 and they do a lot of fundraising and was able to hire a part time staff member. In November 2019 they acquired office space in non-profit row.

Painting a picture of a stable organization, they already have funding for the project and don't foresee a problem with fundraising in the future for the project and maintenance.

Elysse asked for the mayor's youth would be a continuing training for them.

Steven stated that some of these would be very interested and would like to keep those who are interested till October, to do maintenance and watering to the site. Working on a larger volunteer event in October and springtime.

Erum asked how much training time would they get?

Ryan said that one to two hours of training time on-site on how to use tools and working in sections. They will also be trained on plating the plants. They will also have trained staff on-site to help out.

Steven stated that the program will run Tuesday – Friday, with a hybrid model and will use class days for learning among peers and talk about what is happening in the field.

David asked about other volunteering projects like this and asked about what risks would be? With pulling the plants and dispose of plants?

Ryan stated that the woody invasive species and cut to base, project manager on-site with comfort level and if people aren't comfortable then they would spray paint them. Japanese Knotweed would be cut and bagged and disposed of off site at a special disposal site.

8:04 – Public Comment Closed

Erum asked Jennifer why this area was not included in the original project or left out?

Jennifer stated that in 2003 there was a Notice of Intent and went to court because the appeal was it was an article 97 – park land and not be used to convey stormwater. Judge did sign off, the City did not want amend the project to delay the project anymore, with delays comes more costs.

Kathryn would like to revisit the comment about access to the site in Jim's memo. Kathryn said Jennifer said it was remote but was wondering how the youth would access the site and how everything would be moved off site.

Ryan showed from a map that there are already made paths and cut materials on place on tarps and carry out on tarps to dispose in dump truck parked near amphitheater.

Kathryn asked about leaving materials for habitats. She asked Jennifer if they can build that into the conditions. Jennifer stated that this happens on other sites, and never called out but has been used before on projects. Kathryn said we don't need to build in the conditions but it's just a best management practice.

8:15 - The commission unanimously approve the Notice of Intent with conditions annual reporting and others in Jim's memo.

8:16 - Notice of Intent

DEP File # TBD

Aquatic Plant Management – Charles River
Solitude

Jennifer stated that this just an informational presentation of this project. Anne Carroll, Director of the Office of Water for DCR. Part of the mission of Anne's office to control invasive' s, this project was largely promoted by boaters and wanted to control invasive species.

David Lyons asked about a presentation from the DCR in the last -2 years, for invasive management plan along the Charles. Jennifer said that in 2019 the DCR came to the commission with a presentation.

Anne said that this project would control invasive species and repopulate native species to improve recreation on the river.

Eurasian watermilfoil a noninvasive species was discovered, very little water chestnut was discovered. The area of interest is about four hundred (400) acres. The survey in 2019 and will do another survey in early July, before finalization of management approach. Watermilfoil is present in the western portion of the river.

The first management season July – August a targeted approach with a spot treatment, mechanical treatment is not effective for milfoil. They are aware of milfoil in lakes district, and currently doing a survey, by next year a full survey. At that point they could do a sonar treatment next year which would be a full river treatment.

David asked what was considered the lakes region? Anne stated that the lakes region is considered Newton, Watertown and Waltham.

Other things they considered were driver hand pulling which they have done in lakes and ponds. This is a labor extensive treatment and there is more milfoil than expected and with safety issues it doesn't make sense.

Filter fabric technique – weighted down and will kill everything underneath, drivers are needed to install it and maintain. This option was not a good option on the river, better for swim beaches and smaller areas.

David said those alternatives were an EIR – Environmental Monitor, yes was in the May 26th edition.

Partners for the project are Charles River Conservancy and Charles River Watershed. They have reviewed the project and gave back their feedback.

Met with other conservations to prevent the spread of invasive. DCR has a program around stormwater and catch basin cleaning. In 2004 they started public outreach and training that it's illegal to move invasive from one body to the next.

Jennifer Letourneau stated that there were several communications and from the City's perspective they would like to hire a third-party viewer to help navigated this project. The City does not often review herbicides on projects.

8:37 – Public Comment

Lisa Kumpf and Amy Walker from the CRC were both fully in support of the program and worked closely with DCR on a non-herbicide plan for this project.

Ralph Brown, resident was confused about the project and notice received, but now has full understanding of the work.

Jennifer stated that this would be on the July 19th agenda and would be the first on the agenda.

8:42 - **Administrative Topics**

Meeting Minutes from the April 12, 2021 meeting were approved.

Jennifer will be meeting regularly with other Conservation Commission administrators from Boston, Newton and Watertown to discuss the Notice of Intent and orders of conditions as to what we protect and how we protect it regarding the Aquatic Plant Management project on the Charles River.

Next Meeting will be July 19, 2021.

Floating Wetland update will be re-deployed this summer at the same location. We have met with several consultants about the grant and looking to expand and improve the project.

8:56 – Meeting Adjourned