

CAMBRIDGE WATER BOARD

MEETING MINUTES

February 11, 2020

This meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. at 250 Fresh Pond Parkway, in Cambridge, Massachusetts. Those in attendance were:

Cambridge Water Board (CWB): Ann Roosevelt, Jason Marshall and Kathleen Kelly

Cambridge Water Department (CWD): Sam Corda, Dave Kaplan, Jamie O'Connell, Ed Dowling, Mark Gallagher and Linda Vierboom

Department of Public Works (DPW): Kara Falise -DPW Project Engineer

A. MINUTES OF JANUARY 14, 2020 MEETING

Jason Marshall moved, and Ms. Kelly seconded the motion to approve the January 14, 2020 minutes as written.

B. MANAGING DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Glacken Field Renovation Project: Kara Falise met with the Water Board to discuss the progress of the project since her last visit with the Board in December 2019. Since then, she has had a further meeting with the Fresh Pond Master Plan Advisory Board (FPAB), as well as the pedestrian and bike committees, general community and field users to try to develop a plan that will work for everyone. The next general community meeting will be held on February 13th.

At the special meeting of the FPAB on January 23, 2020 they approved the following draft motions: 1) Selected the option which included a 5' black chain link fence adjacent to the planned perimeter pathway; 2) Recommended that the planned perimeter path be no wider than 8' adjacent to the Glacken Slope area (tot lot to the Eversource transformer); 3) The use of only plants from the Fresh Pond Master Plan plant list (most recent plant list as approved by the FPAB) with the exception of the turf for the fields; 4) Support for the revitalization of the Glacken Slope including the removal of the invasive Black Locust trees; and 5) Exclude any lighting on the planned Glacken Field Restoration Project.

The proposed project schedule is to bid out the project in late February 2020; start construction in the Spring; plant grass early fall of 2020; with playable fields in spring of 2021.

The following is a summary review of the current proposed plan for Glacken Field:

The lighting of one ball field was taken out of consideration; there will be two Major League ball fields (200' outfield); a 10' wide porous pavement path will be placed behind the fields, with a 5' black chain link fence, running 4' in back of it (Fresh Pond side), separating the fields from the Glacken Slope. This rear path will be available to pedestrians, bikes and strollers and allows access for maintenance and emergency vehicles.

Drainage will be significantly improved with the perimeter path and slight regrading of the field. Player benches, fencing, spectator seating and a batting cage will be part of the facility.

Key Topics: Glacken Field Renovation Update, Fresh Pond
Reservation Rules and Regulations Discussion

A gathering/picnic/informal play/seating area will be located on the western corner adjacent to Huron Avenue, and the Better Bus program would like to add a bus stop at Glacken Field.

The tot lot play area will remain in the same location and will be renovated and will incorporate the removed Black Locust timbers as part of the proposed play structures.

A porta potty, enclosed in a wooden shelter, will be located on the site in a to be agreed upon location. It is important to locate this facility in a location where the runoff does not flow toward Fresh Pond.

The following link is to the Glacken Field Site Plan, dated February 3, 2020.

<https://www.cambridgema.gov/-/media/Files/publicworksdepartment/Engineering/cityprojects/glackenfield/february2020siteplan.pdf>

Additionally, the planned sidewalk extension from Glacken Field, running along Huron Avenue to Fresh Pond Parkway, was further discussed - the proposal was to install a 12' wide multi-use sidewalk. This size sidewalk can accommodate 2-way pedestrian and bicycle traffic concurrently and be ADA compliant. This proposed sidewalk width was 2' less than recommended by the Pedestrian and Bicycle Committees and would not remove/relocate any trees or existing poles.

The Water Board commented that this proposed 12' wide sidewalk was of major concern relating to the "stewardship" of the Fresh Pond Reservation and the potential for adding more salt in the winter. This could also be considered contradictory to our philosophy of reducing pavement and increasing greenspace within the Reservation. The Board suggested that a 5' sidewalk is the preferred/maximum width and that the City should look and see if the bicycle path could be placed in the Huron Avenue right-of-way, instead of within Fresh Pond Reservation.

Mr. Gallagher commented that two access manholes and air vents must be available to Water Department personnel for maintenance purposes.

Ms. Falise commented that the bleachers will soon be in the process of removal under a separate contract.

Questions/Comments:

It was asked if the existing "goat" path, within the Glacken Slope restoration area, could be widened with no change to the surface material. Mr. Kaplan said it could not because it would then not be ADA compliant.

It was asked if the transformer next to the field would be moved or enclosed within a fence. Ms. Falise said they have not proposed any changes due to budget, maintenance and security issues.

Ms. Falise will bring back to the table any changes to the concepts presented here and will forward this information to Mr. Corda and Mr. Kaplan for further consideration.

Mr. Kaplan presented an overview of Glacken Slope Phase 6 - the final restoration phase. The presentation discussed the previous 5 phases of restoration which began behind the golf course clubhouse in 2009. The restoration techniques use bio-engineering practices to arrest water runoff, remove invasives and restore the soils. For more information and to access the presentation please see the link below.

<https://www.cambridgema.gov/~media/Files/waterdepartment/freshpondreservation/Projects/glacken/slope/FPABPresentationhatch1232020sm.pdf>

PFAS Update: Mr. Corda discussed that we are working with our consultant to submit a Pilot Study Application to MA DEP for approval. This study is using Bench Scale Column Testing to analyze at least two different Granular Activated Carbons (GACs) as filter media to determine the best GAC to remove our PFAS Compounds to below 10ppt. This testing will also help to determine the time that the GAC will effectively remove PFAS compounds – the life of the carbon. This will allow us to know the frequency of replacement and then plan and budget for this effort.

Mr. Corda handed out the Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) update from the American Water Works Association (AWWA) which contained a Summary of State Regulations to Protect Drinking Water.

Fresh Pond Reservation Rules and Regulations Discussion: Due to time limitations, Rules and Regulations for Fresh Pond will be discussed at the next meeting.

C. OPERATIONS

Transmission and Distribution:

No Comments

Watershed:

No Comments

Business:

No Comments

Water Operations:

Per Ms. Roosevelt's suggestion, Mr. Dowling will post recommendations for water filters that remove PFAS Compounds from the water on the CWD website. Mr. Dowling suggested that Ms. Roosevelt send any calls she may receive regarding filters for PFAS removal directly to him.

Engineering:

No Comments

D. ACTION ITEMS

A motion to support the Glacken Slope Restoration and the removal of the invasive Black Locust trees within the restoration project area.

Jason Marshall moved and Kathleen Kelly seconded the motion to support the revitalization of the wooded slope area behind Glacken Field which includes the removal of all invasive allelopathic Black Locust trees for the purposes of soil and canopy restoration with native trees, mid, and understory plantings for future forest resiliency and improved ecological value. The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

E. MISCELLANEOUS CORRESPONDENCE AND ITEMS OF INTEREST

No Comments

F. NEW BUSINESS

None

G. NEXT MEETING DATES/TOPICS

- March 10, 2020: Approved/PFAS Update/Fresh Pond Rules and Regulations Review – continued
- April 14, 2020: TBA/TBD
- May 12, 2020: TBA/TBD
- June 9, 2020: TBA/TBD

Mr. Marshall moved, and Ann Roosevelt seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:59 p.m. The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.