

May 19, 2022 - Fresh Pond Reservation Master Plan Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

(conducted via Zoom)

Submitted: Sam Corda – March 16, 2023

Advisory Board Members in Attendance:

Janice Snow (Chair), David Kaplan, Janet Burns, Sophia Emperador, Claudia Thompson, Jennifer Letourneau, Adam Corbeil, Candace Young, David Lyons, Susan Agger

Advisory Board Members Not in Attendance:

Jim Barton, Deborah Masterson, Ann Roosevelt

Water Department in Attendance:

Sam Corda, Julie Greenwood-Torelli, Jamie O'Connell

Others in Attendance:

Kathleen Kelly – Cambridge Water Board, Duke Bitsko – Hatch, Gary Chan – Cambridge Community Development Department, Patrick Barton – Public, Elizabeth Wylde – Public

Meeting opened at 6:15 pm

Meeting Minutes: S. Corda

Item 1: Review Agenda

Item 2: Meeting Minutes

No minutes to review.

Item 3: Upcountry Reservoir Report

David Kaplan reported that a \$200,00 grant from the state allowed Cambridge to purchase 2 parcels in Lincoln totaling 8 acres, adding to our watershed protection lands. D. Kaplan also discussed exploratory dam work at Hobbs Brook Reservoir Dam to develop and prioritize recommended repairs. Watershed Supervisory, Jamie O'Connell discussed Watershed Division work with the Waltham Fire Dept hazmat crew to review their procedures near the Upcountry watershed and with Mass DOT to improve the functioning of their stormwater management structures. Frequent water quality monitoring and site monitoring makes sure the water complies with standards. Parcels within the watershed can now be tracked in a GIS system and all field data, reports and meetings can be accessed electronically.

The full presentation can be found using the link below:

<https://www.cambridgema.gov/-/media/Files/waterdepartment/freshpondreservation/advisoryboardagendasandminutes/Minutes/2022/051922WatershedSummary.pptx>

Item 4: CDD Open Space Planning

Gary Chan gave a summary of the current status of CDD's project to review all of the City's open space parcels, its survey of residents and the planning process. The Advisory Board had invited Gary to discuss the unique nature of the open spaces in the Reservations as protected water supply lands. Board members noted the extensive landscape restoration work completed

and policies established by the 2001 Master Plan. Gary was asked if people he surveyed who used the reservation knew that it was the City's water supply. He said it is not currently something that they ask in the surveys. Gary agreed that he will consult with the Water Department on any open space plans that reference or include Reservation land.

The presentation can be found using the link below:

https://www.cambridgema.gov/-/media/Files/waterdepartment/freshpondreservation/advisoryboardagendasandminutes/Minutes/2022/OpenSpacePlanning_FreshPondMasterPlanAdvisoryBoard.pdf

Item 5: Friends of Fresh Pond 2021 Woodlands Project Report

Friends members Elizabeth Wylde and Advisory Board member Candace Young discussed their annual written report distributed to the Board. They are concerned by increased animal destruction of many new and some existing plants. Mountain Laurel was planted but many that were too big to cage have been eaten by deer. Vinnie is working with them to explore deterrents. There was discussion about whether there was a need for special netting for seedlings.

Item 6: Watershed Manager's Report

Huron Pine Forest Study: David Kaplan gave an update and spoke about the existing conditions survey that will extend from the Fresh Pond Parkway edge of the forest to the switchback stairs along Huron Ave. That Phase 1 area encompasses a portion of the Perimeter Road that will have to be reconstructed and the land between the Road and the multiuse path. The Phase 2 area includes the rest of Pine Forest.

Old Field Birch Grove (OFBG) seating area update: D. Bitsko shared a revised concept plan and presentation. The presentation can be found using the link below.

https://www.cambridgema.gov/-/media/Files/waterdepartment/freshpondreservation/advisoryboardagendasandminutes/Agendas/2022/20220513_RevisedConceptPlan_Plants.pdf

The benches will be moved back. The area of the concrete pad will be increased, and the fountain will be moved back.

C. Thompson recommended *Cornus Canadensis* (bunchberry) be removed from the planting plan due to climate change pressures.

Members present unanimously approved the revised concept.

Multi-use path status, signage, planting repair along treatment plant swales: The Path is mostly done. A few punch list items remain. CWD is investigating opportunities for wayfinding signs.

The layer of mulch deposited in the swale across from the Treatment Plant will have to be raked out.

DPW's Huron Ave sidewalk, roadway bike lanes & Tree Planting: DPW believes that the Glacken field project will be completed in June. The Huron Ave Chapter 90 bid for the roadway bike lane will be going out shortly.

Landscape Management Report: V. Falcione was not available to contribute..

Item 7: Status of Council Policy Order Reviewing Reservation Golf Course Use

Sam Corda reported no new information on this issue.

Item 8: Golf Course Buffer Zone Management Implementation

Status of buffers along ponds and woodland to be moved to a later meeting.

Item 9: Status of Naming Request for Drainage/Community Project Area

Note: The January 20, 2020 Advisory Board letter formally recommended to the Manager that the City “officially rename the above-described restored area of the Reservation after the late Water Board President, Dr. Joseph (Joe) John Harrington, as either Harrington Way or Harrington Gateway.”

Sam Corda reported no new information on this issue.

Item 10: Reservation Community Gardens in CP&GC Booklet 2020-2021

J. Burns discussed Community Gardens in Cambridge. Fourteen Gardens in Cambridge, two of which are in the Reservation, are included in the booklet. Detailing in text and color photographs the Club presents the history and current use of each garden. Club members met with Jen Letourneau to gather information on the gardens. Jen noted that the first Reservation community garden was established in the rear of Neville in 1974. The link to the booklet is listed below:

<http://cambridgeplantandgardenclub.org/community-projects/in-the-community-latest-civic-projects/>

Item 11: 2022-2023 Term Proposed Meeting Schedule

September 15, 2022; November 17, 2022; March 16, 2023; May 18, 2023; Optional meeting dates if needed: Jan 19 and/or April 20, 2023

Item 12: Preliminary Agenda for Sept 19, 2022

Watershed Mangers Report, Updates on Huron Ave and Pine Forest, FY22 & 23 Budgeting Master Plan Projects Update

Item 13: Public Comment

David Kaplan moved, and Candace Young seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting. The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 8:06pm.