

May 18, 2023 - Fresh Pond Reservation Master Plan Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

(Hybrid Meeting – Zoom, In-person)

Submitted: David Kaplan – September 21, 2023

Advisory Board Members in Attendance:

Janice Snow (Chair), David Kaplan, Jennifer Letourneau, Adam Corbeil, Candace Young, Susan Agger, Janet Burns, Claudia Thompson (~7:20), Sophia Emperador, Jim Barton (~7:30)

Advisory Board Members Not in Attendance:

Deborah Masterson, Ann Roosevelt, David Lyons

Cambridge Water Department (CWD) Staff in Attendance:

Vincent Falcione

Others in Attendance:

Ken Vorspan and son

“Joanne She/Her” (via Zoom)

Meeting opened at 7:08pm

Meeting Minutes: D. Kaplan

Item 1: Review Agenda

No changes proposed.

Item 2: Meeting Minutes

March 16, 2023 Minutes: C. Young - Motion to accept the minutes as presented, S. Emperador seconded. Approved unanimously.

Item 3: Watershed Manager’s Report (D. Kaplan)

D. Kaplan gave an update on the Huron Forest. Existing conditions survey is completed and ground-truthed. He is awaiting a new contract with Hatch for Landscape Design Services to move forward with additional planning and design work.

Little Fresh Pond shoreline reconstruction is still on a fall construction schedule.

CWD is moving forward with design and permitting work for the Old Field Birch Grove seating area improvements.

J. Snow and others requested a copy of the Huron Forest existing conditions plan.

Landscape Management Report (V. Falcione)

Mulch was delivered & applied. Memorial tree plantings included an Oak planted at Kingsley Park, an American Elm near the mound of Maher Park. Will update the plaque in the lobby to document the plantings.

J. Burns asked about Essex Horticulture truck she’s noticed onsite. V. Falcione stated that Essex (the Water Department’s current specialized landscape maintenance contractor) is hand-pulling

garlic mustard in restored areas. In addition, Ranger Tim Puopolo has recruited volunteers to hand-pull garlic mustard in various locations. S. Agger led a volunteer group of 6th graders to hand pull garlic mustard around the Butterfly Meadow behind Neville. One group pulled about 550 lbs in one day. D. Kaplan stated that the Reservation's Vegetation Management Plan wetlands permit through the Cambridge Conservation Commission was recently amended and extended to allow CWD to continue appropriately managing invasive species in and around jurisdictional resource areas. V. Falcione thinks we're having success managing garlic mustard and buckthorn, but other species such as black swallow-wort are more challenging. URI is working on a biological control for black swallow-wort. Could investigate that as an option similar to past galerucella beetle releases at the Golf Course for purple loosestrife control.

V. Falcione explained that CWD added a "no-mow" meadow area abutting Fresh Pond Parkway. Staff aerated and spread in a native wildflower mix to facilitate its naturalization.

J. Snow asked about ailanthus and using myco-pesticides in its management. V. Falcione discussed the challenge with managing invasive trees over 6" DBH under the City Ordinance. Discussion ensued.

J. Snow asked about wildlife issues. CWD discussed receiving a permit for and successfully adding mute swan eggs. Deer are being managed, soon in-house, with an organic deterrent spray that makes native vegetation less palatable to deer. V. Falcione discussed fencing, costs, and management challenges with the Board. CWD exploring the possibility of installing motion-activated sprinklers to deter deer browse in the Lusitania Woodland.

Item 4: Golf Course Landscape Report (A. Corbeil)

A. Corbeil discussed golf course programming and landscape projects. Presentation is available for download <https://www.cambridgema.gov/-/media/Files/waterdepartment/freshpondreservation/advisoryboardagendasandminutes/Minutes/2023/landscapereport2023.pdf>

Programing: A. Corbeil noted that 50,00 rounds of golf were played over the last year. A number of youth golfing programs were held, including a Saturday Special Needs group, Learn to Play.

Six 14- and 15-year-olds did landscape maintenance at the course as part of the Mayor's Summer Youth Program. The Women's League and charity events played at the course. Off-season saw limited use, due to lack of snow.

Landscape: The tree nursery set up behind the maintenance shed provided a number of the 31 trees planted along the course. Twenty-five foot buffer zones along fairways 5 and 8 have been delineated with new flush ground markers.

Board members asked for confirmation that all species planted were on the 2019 Approved Plant List and if the new trees had been planted in ecological groupings.

Irrigation: Equipment pumping Little Fresh Pond water to the course was repaired and reviewed by the Conservation Commission Director. Also discussed was the status of the water line to the ornamental water fountain along the Perimeter Road.

Item 5: Adding Buffer/Transition Zones Section to 2019 Master Plan Plant List Update

J. Snow recommended adding treatment of buffer zones and transition areas to the Sustainable Landscape Management Plan guiding principles. Janice will start a subcommittee of the Planting Committee to review literature and draft guidance on transition area and buffer zone values.

Item 6: Stewardship Awards Recommendation Status

J. Snow spoke with Deputy City Manager Owen O’Riordan to organize and schedule the event.

Item 7: 2023-2024 Term Proposed Meeting Schedule

J. Snow proposed September 21, 2023 November 16, 2023, March 21, 2024, May 16, 2024 suggested. Everyone agreed.

Item 8: Preliminary Agenda for September 21, 2023

Upcountry Report, Budget, Monarch Report. November target for FP Census report

Item 9: Public Comment

Cambridge resident Ken Vorspan and son asked about our poison ivy maintenance, management practices. Staff and Board members discussed challenges and opportunities for improvement.

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 8:15pm.