



City of Cambridge Conservation Commission

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Public Meeting – Monday, January 7, 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, Elysse Magnotto-Cleary, David Lyons, Kathryn Hess, Kenneth Nugent and Jennifer Letourneau (Director)

Absent Commission Members: Ted Pickering

Attendees: Tracy Dwyer, Cambridge Public Works; Rick Corsi, DCR; Ann Stewart, Resident; Jim Riordan, Weston & Sampson; Andrea Varuth, Landmark Studio; Carol Dennison, WSP; Tim Thoville, Harvard; Mark Verkenrus, Harvard; Charlie Roberts, Childs Engineering

Purvi Patel opened the hearing.

7:00 - Notice of Intent

55 Wheeler Street

DEP File #123-288

Continued from November 19, 2018

Jennifer read the technical memo submitted by James Wilcox (not present) with regards to the project and their resubmitted materials. Jennifer and the commission were happy with the resubmitted materials. James Wilcox had stated in his memo that they send in information about the herbicides that they will be using for their vegetation management plan. Kaki was pleased with the new contours in figure A of the plans. Kathryn asked about the application for the vegetation management plan. Purvi also asked about why James Wilcox called out the submission of the herbicides and Jennifer stated it was part of the City's MS4 permitting.

The Commission unanimously agreed to approve the permit.

7:12 – Administrative Topics

Meeting Minutes – November 19, 2018 were approved.

7:13 - Notice of Intent
Harvard Sailing Center
Memorial Drive
DEP File # 123-290

Charlie Roberts from Childs Engineering gave an overview of the project, last winter the barge (sailing center) took on some water and started sinking. The barge needs to be repaired and they will be raising the barge and welding steel over the existing steel. They will raise one side of the barge at a time to do the work, there will be a catchment net under the barge to catch any materials falling but they don't anticipate much. The barge is tied into the adjacent seawall and will be secured back to the existing wall once the repairs are complete.

The Commission then asked questions. Purvi asked what the time frame of the construction would be. Charlie stated that they would like to get the work done as soon as possible and at this point they are a little behind schedule. They are anticipating if all goes well that this will take a month to complete.

Elysse asked about the supports of the barge and Charlie said it floats, there are no supports except that it's tie into the adjacent wall.

Kathryn asked the age of the building; Harvard answered that it was about 42 years old.

Kaki asked where the work to the barge was being performed. Charlie said a barge will come to the river for the contractors to access the one needing work. The barge for work purposes will stay for the duration of the work and would only need to be moved if there was a weather-related reason.

Ken asked about the debris being removed from the underneath of the barge. Charlie responded that it would just be marine life and that would just be left.

Kathryn asked about how they would clean it, what method and Charlie said scraping and power washing.

Ken asked what if the contractor gets iced out of the river. Jennifer stated that we would have to have several cold consecutive days for that to happen. Also, the location where the sailing center is located is wide and the movement of the river, it's less likely to freeze over.

Purvi opened up public comment. There was no public comment and it was closed.

The Commission unanimously agreed to approve the permit.

7:27 - Informational Presentation
DCR and Weston & Sampson
Charles River Basin Vegetation Management Plan

Rick Corsi from DCR gave a brief overview of why the DCR is implementing a Vegetation Management Plan (VMP) for the Charles River. Jim Riordan from Weston & Sampson was there as they were hired to help DCR come up with a VMP. Jim went through the plan as it is to date with the commission. Jim stated that the limits are from the Watertown Dam to the Charles River Dam. He explained to the commission they have identified “test areas” along the river which were closed to the control areas. They are testing these areas for at least two (2) years and these are based on DCR’s resources.

Purvi asked if they have contact the Department of Fish and Game (DFG) and if they haven’t she suggested they do because they could help with the VMP, she thought it would be a great resource to DCR.

Kathryn asked when they would plant the test plots. They answered spring time.

Elysse asked if the funding for this project has been secured for two (2) years. Rick Corsi from DCR said the funds were secured for the two (2) years and in the next fiscal year they will secure more funds.

Kaki asked about the construction, monitoring and maintenance of the test areas as well as the overall VMP. She wanted to know if they will strictly work with volunteers and DCR staff to help with the maintenance. Rick said there are several stakeholder groups that they work with, so this would give these groups some guidance.

Jennifer also stated whether they have thought about the demands along the river and the seasonal activities. They have thought about that, but they also know they can’t not work in a certain because there are events happening.

Ken asked if there was a priority list for the funding, but Rick stated that the funds will be distributed amongst all the cities along the river.

Purvi asked how big the test plots were and Rick and Jim said they were about 100 feet of riverbank.

Kaki asked about the stakeholders and Rick stated that they work closely with the Charles River Conservancy, the Charles River Watershed Association and they will be sitting with these groups for their input on the VMP as well. Rick stated that they already have a program with these groups, so this again will work as a guidance for them. Kaki asked that they identify what work will need to be done by hired help and what work DCR can do.

Purvi also asked if they have been in contact with MEPA, she thought they might be a useful resource to them as well. She also asked if they would require at Chapter 91 permit and Jim and Rick agreed they would not. DCR will be back with a Notice to Intent once the plan is complete.

Rick also asked what the length of the permit was and asked if they could have it for five (5) years and Jennifer said she would check with the DEP circuit rider. Also, Rick asked about notifications to abutters (to be researched).

8:08 - Meeting Adjourned