



City of Cambridge Conservation Commission

147 Hampshire Street
Cambridge, MA 02139
Ph. 617.349.4680

Jennifer Letourneau, Director

jletourneau@cambridgema.gov

Public Meeting – Monday, April 10, 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: Dorothy Altman, Elyse Magnotto-Cleary, Michael McDonough (Acting Chair), Ted Pickering, Kaki Martin and Jennifer Letourneau (Director)

Absent Commission Members: Purvi Patel (Chair) and Lauren McPherson-Siegrist

Attendees: Tracy Dwyer (DPW), James Downing (Howard Stein Hudson), Val Soroka (DCR), Bob Stathopoulos (Howard Stein Hudson), Anthony Zerilli (Weston & Sampson), Meredith Chamberlin (Eck McNeely Architects), Maureen Nunez (Shady Hill School),

Michael McDonough opened the hearing.

7:05PM – Request for Determination of Applicability

Howard Stein Hudson for the DCR

Gerry's Landing Road, Mount Auburn Street and Fresh Pond Parkway Pathway Connections

Bob from Howard Stein Hudson gave a brief overview of the project. The project will redesign and re-signal the intersection of Mount Auburn Street, Gerry's Landing Road, Fresh Pond Parkway and Memorial Drive. This is a high crash intersection and will improve safety for vehicles, pedestrians, cyclists as well as improve MBTA bus operations. This project will add in a separated bike lane that will be about eighteen (18) feet wide and raised. The bike path will be along Mount Auburn Street and continue down to Gerry's Land Road which will then have the bikes cross the street, there will be a bike path constructed in the island, cross over Memorial Drive and connect to the path that is adjacent to the river. This project is within twenty-five (25) feet of the river and there is within the one hundred (100) foot buffer. The project is projected to start in June of 2018 and the DCR will use an existing maintenance contractor that they already have instead of bidding out the job.

Ted Pickering had a comment that he thought the Chapter 91 and the high tide mark was interesting on the plans submitted did not indicate that there was a dam on Charles River. Howard Stein Hudson said that was the historic data that was found.

Jennifer stated that they would add in the special conditions to this; negative determination, they would be responsible for erosion and sediment control on the project and construction mitigation with determination of applicability.

There was no public comment.

The Commission unanimously agreed to approve with special conditions.

7:15PM – Notice of Intent: Weston & Sampson

Shady Hill School, 178 Coolidge Hill
Building 512 Renovation Project
DEP File# 123-281

This project was continued from the last meeting on March 12, 2018 when the commission had asked that the group review and amend their plans. The commission reviewed the amendments that were made and had no additional comments.

Jennifer stated that she asked them to photograph before and after pictures of the fencing that they would be installing. After the project was complete she would review plantings and ask that they have additional plantings added. The special conditions would be as follows; erosion and sediment control, construction mitigation and the fence line documentation.

Ted asked that they also make sure they clean up after construction and Jennifer stated that she would have them work on their vegetation management plan and also clean drainage and swales.

There was no public comment.

The Commission unanimously agreed to approve with special conditions.

7:20PM – Administrative Topics

Meeting Minutes – March 12, 2018: Unanimously approved. Ted Pickering had some minor edits.

Jennifer reported to the Commission that on Friday, March 30th it was reported to DEP that there was contamination in the Alewife from the Concord Turnpike construction project. Over the weekend of April 1st Jennifer went out to the Alewife to inspect the conditions. Jennifer discovered the over near Acorn Park Drive that was she identified as bacteria floating in the water. She said it was a plate-like sheen and orange in color. She had done some research and brought to the commission what she believed to be just a outbreak of bacteria in the water. The BSC Group has agreed to sample the water and they did that the week of April 2nd and are awaiting results. They agreed to continue sampling it as well.

Ellen Mass had since emailed the City Council stating she believes that they area needs to monitored.

Ted Pickering agreed with Jennifer it's is most likely from her description a bacteria outbreak. He said that the acidity strips iron of the soil and a there is a bright orange outbreak. Michael McDonough stated it does have a lot to do with the temperature change and weather changes.

The commission also discussed the last meeting where some members of the public thought there was a gap in the decisions of the Planning Board and the Conservation Commission. Jennifer stated that there are benefits of the laws and by-laws of Climate Change she stated that maybe the commission should be more involved in the Climate Change Advisory Board. Kaki brought up that there are other municipalities do have by-laws that she felt as though the Law Department didn't want to get involved and get into more lawsuits. Jennifer said we might have what we need already through the DPW permitting process. Kaki stated well we should look to see if the commission is filling a gap to fulfill the goals through the by-law. Jennifer and Kaki agreed that the commission needs to ask is there a gap we can fill with a Conservation Commission by-law. Possibly having some representation at the Climate Advisory Board.

The commission also spoke about the door of DPW locking at 8:00 pm, since this was an issue at the last commission meeting and if the meetings are running behind we can have the door unlocked.

Jennifer also told the commission that Mike Nakagawa would be appealing the 50 Cambridge Park Drive project that was on the agenda last meeting.

7:40PM – Meeting Adjourned