



## City of Cambridge Conservation Commission

147 Hampshire Street  
Cambridge, MA 02139  
Ph. 617.349.4680

*Jennifer Letourneau, Director*

*[jletourneau@cambridgema.gov](mailto:jletourneau@cambridgema.gov)*

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### **Public Meeting – Monday, July 20, 2020 at 7:00 PM 147 Hampshire Street, Main Conference Room MEETING MINUTES**

**The following meeting minutes were taken by Tracy Dwyer and are respectfully submitted.**

Present Commission Members: Jennifer Letourneau (Director), Purvi Patel (Chair), David Lyons (Vice Chair), Erum Sattar, Elyse Magnotto-Cleary, Kathryn Hess, Kaki Martin

Absent Commission Members: Ted Pickering

Attendees: Tracy Dwyer, Cambridge Public Works; Holly Palmgren, MBTA; Sean Scannell, Epsilon Associates; Dwight Dunk, Epsilon Associates; Karl Eckstrom, MBTA; Tess Paganelli, MBTA; Colin Duncan, TRC; Thayer Donham, MIT; Marty Deluga, MIT

Purvi Patel opened the meeting.

#### **7:00 – Request to Amend and Extend an Order of Conditions**

MBTA – Exploratory Borings Associated with the Charles River  
DEP File #123-276

Holly Palmgren from MBTA opened up the project stating that this project would be replacement of the North Station drawbridge. She then asked Colin Duncan from Epsilon Associates to give specifics. Colin explained that this project was under a design contract from 2010-2017 with Stantec. They had established geo technical borings in the Charles River and land. The boring locations were in the river and also on land, under the tracks and near tower A in Cambridge. The Order of Conditions in April 2020 and due to COVID-19 things were delayed. The contract now is under design with STV, Inc. STV has identified six (6) borings instead of five (5) which was previously identified. The borings will help explore the soil along the river and in the tracks. The borings in the river will be performed with a barge and on the barge will be a drill rig, similar to the operations on land. The standard of conditions will not change and they will be watching the sediments same as Stantec. They have gotten approval from the City of Boston.

Purvi Patel said she had no concerns but wanted to know what the new impacts would be? Colin said that all borings would be outside the rivers edge. Purvi also asked Jennifer Letourneau if they could extend and amend all in the same mechanism. Jennifer said yes we can amend and extend all in the same paperwork.

Kathryn Hess asked if they could asked they could identify the sixth boring? Colin pointed out that the added boring was added and it is in the middle over the trestle.

Erum Sattar asked what the reasoning is for the increase in probes? Colin said that the increase was the preference of the design team and/or new standards or new location of structure. Erum asked how long this will be valid? Jennifer stated that they have three (3) years and they can make additional amendments as needed.

Kathryn Hess asked when work will be complete? Colin said that they would complete work in ninety (90) days in Cambridge and Boston.

No public comment.

**7:20** – Public Comment was Closed.

**7:20** – The Commission approved the Amend and Extension. David Lyons has recused himself.

### **7:21 - Request for Determination of Applicability**

DCR – Seawall Maintenance Associated with the Charles River

Dwight Dunk and Sean Scannell from Epsilon Associates was present to represent the project. Dwight explained that MIT was asked by DCR to make the repairs to the seawall. Dwight stated that this seawall is over one hundred (100) years old. This forth (40) foot piece of the seawall along the Charles Rover is subject to land underwater and flood plain. This seawall was given at Chapter 91 license in 1983. The restoration of the wall would be repointing, filling in the cracks of the wall they would use cement, small sandbags and granite to fill in larger voids. The extent of the project is from the top of the wall to the mud line. The work would be done from a vessel which will be launched from the duck boat ramp. The vessel would be behind a silk curtain and surrounded by a boom. The repairs are being done to a manmade seawall to protect from storm damage and flooding and will not alter any resource area.

Jennifer Letourneau then read Jim Wilcox Director of Engineering Services' technical review of the project. Jim suggested that a mock-up of the work be available for the Conservation Commission as well as the DCR for their approval prior to the start of work.

Purvi Patel asked if this was being treated as a coastal bank? Dwight stated that it is considered an inland resource area, serves as a function of an inland bank to protect from storm damage and flood water control.

Purvi asked what the time frame was for the project? Dwight stated that they would like the work to get done this summer and that the work would likely take five (5) working days to complete. He would need to confirm with MIT about an exact date. They would need to incorporate time for the mock-up.

Marty Deluga from MIT stated that DCR had a similar request to have a mock-up of the sandbags and stone, they would make sure Conversation Commission was part of the approval.

David Lyons asked how the dock repair project was going? Jennifer stated that the project is going well, now that construction is back up and running from the changes due to COVID-19. David stated that it made sense to get this work done but wanted to know if there were other areas along the river that needed to be repaired as well? Jennifer stated that the DCR is the owner of the seawall and there are other areas that she's pointed out that could be used to be repaired but she was told time that the lack of staff and money was an issue. DCR saw this as an opportunity to get this portion repaired since MIT was out there working on a larger project. Jennifer stated to the commission it would be important to remember how we approved this one so when they come back with other repairs we can keep it all consistent.

Kaki Martin stated that someone from DCR should be there for the mock-up, the right person.

Jennifer stated that this can be a condition for the RDA.

Kathryn Hess asked what the purpose of the mock-up would be and what they would be looking for? Jennifer stated that they would be looking for historical restoration of the wall, the correct stone color so there is blending, face of the granite is not covered and it's functioning as a storm barrier.

Erum Sattar asked how it was determined that this particular location was in need of repair? Jennifer stated that when maintenance is needed they like to ask it be part of a larger project. Since MIT was out at this location working on the boat house they asked if they could incorporate it into the larger scope of work. Because of the lack of funds of the DCR and staff this made sense. Erum asked about the wood that Dwight talked about that was in the wall that would be removed as part of the project. Dwight stated that this acted as a fender for boats and was in no way structural.

Thayer Donham from MIT stated that the reason for this project the repair to the seawall is that DCR asked MIT to make the repairs because their second means of egress would be on the wall and to make sure that they wall was safe she suggested that the repairs be done. Jeffrey Harris from DCR approved granite sample but she they would make sure he was part of the mock-up approval. She said that the mock-up would need to take place in the next few weeks because they would like to get the repairs done before the boat house project moves forward.

**7:48 – Public Comment Closed**

**7:49 – The Commission unanimously approves negative determination of RDA**

**7:50 – Administrative Topic**

Jennifer reported that all projects are on-going Charles River Conservancy has their float in, Hells Half Arce project is on-going and that they started the Fresh Pond Slope Restoration project and are removing invasive's.

Meeting Minutes from June 18, 2020 were approved.  
The next meeting will be August 17, 2020 via Zoom.

**7:54 – Meeting Adjourned**

