



City of Cambridge Conservation Commission

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Public Meeting – Monday, April 12, 2021 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, Kathryn Hess, Michelle Lane, Elysse Magnotto-Cleary, Kaki Martin

Absent Commission Members:

Attendees: Tracy Dwyer, DPW; Jim Wilcox, DPW; Gregg Russo, TRC Companies; Ken Fields, Fort Point Associates; David Vittori, BioMed Realty; Becky Weissman, SWCA Environmental Construction; Brendan Kearns, Trimont Engineering; Howard Moshier, VHB; Chris Wagner, VHB; Carlye Murphy, BioMed Realty; Matt Schweisberg; Mike Nakagawa; James Williamson; Clara Batchelor

Purvi Patel opened the meeting.

7:02 – Abbreviated Notice of Resource Area Delineation

One Alewife Park

Continued from February 8, 2021

Purvi Patel explained that after the last hearing there was a consensus to have a field verification of the flags in the resource area. On Friday, March 5, 2021 Jennifer Letourneau, Elysse Magnotto-Cleary, TRC and the applicant went out to the area and did a field check. TRC the third party reviewed land subject to flooding, border land subject to flooding, land under water and water ways. Chris Wagner from VHB went through the changes to made to the plans after the site walk. Originally labeled it as ILSF in the northwest corner of the site and was changed to BVW, it drains to the river through a pipe. This land has a 100' buffer zone to the BVW. The other land is west of Jerry's Pond some flags were adjusted and created a new 100' buffer zone. They agreed with the peer viewers that these flags were to be moved and changing the designation of the ILSF to BVW. The plans were submitted to the City and also submitted the forms to Jennifer for wetland 4.

Purvi what is the BVW change to the site? What is the area of the BVW? Chris did not know exactly but roughly 2500 square feet, and Jerry's Pond was 1600 square feet.

Jennifer Letourneau said it was a good day and a professional outing and she feels that the plan that was submitted is 100% accurate.

Elysse was thankful for the site visit and see the level of detail that went into the visit.

Kathryn Hess stated they were on the fence about whether they needed this site visit and she appreciates the time taken to do the field verification and the changes that were made.

Erum Sattar stated she thought this site visit was something that should be done and appreciated the efforts.

Kaki Martin and David Lyons also appreciated the time for the field verification.

Erum Sattar asked Chris about the pipe that was found? Did you find it at the site walk? Chris said the pipe was not visible at the last visit because it was buried in leaves and sticks. He did see it on the plans and made a point to go out to that site in March and dug for the pipe to verify. The first indication of the pipe was from the plans.

7:20 – Public Comment

Mike Nakagawa of the Alewife Neighbors/Study Group. Wanted to thank the staff and commission for the efforts for the site visit to verify the wetlands. Is concerned about the Herons not returning to the area to nest. Also concerned about the soil sampling and Notice of Intent.

James Williamson was glad the site walk took place. What does the pipe do that was found?

Chris Wagner stated that they did not a complete survey of the pipe with a dye test but the pipe does drain to the Alewife Brook which makes the land a BVW.

7:25 – Public comment Closed

Kathryn Hess asked if wetland 4 was outside the boundary and who the owner was?

Chris Wagner said that the DCR owns it.

She also asked about the overall plans and changes? How have the plans changed due to the changes of the buffer zone because she said it seemed as though a lot of the building was going to happen in the parking lot area. Howard Mosier from VHB stated there is also land subject to flooding. They are subject to some judications because of the flood zone.

7:28 – Commission unanimously approved Order of Resource Delineation

7:28 – Request for Certificate of Compliance

DEP File #123-292

Eversource Brookford Street Station

Becky Weissman from SWCA Environmental Construction explained to the commission that in 2019 they came to the commission with plans to upgrade the building at 43 Brookford Street. The building was demolished, they upgraded the generator and piping as well as made improvements to the sites drainage due to it being on a parcel “land subject to flooding”. The property off of Magoun Street was used as a laydown area, materials have since been removed and the site has been restored. Brendan Kearns from Trimont Engineering went through the exterior improvements that were made, crushed stone around the perimeter of the building, new asphalt paving, new fence and new above grade piping.

Purvi asked if this was for a Certificate of Completion? She also mentioned from Jim Wilcox’s technical review menu that he mentioned maintenance of the swales. Jennifer stated that there is

a section in the certificate. Jim Wilcox stated that a spring and fall clean-up would be sufficient and said that it would be easy to maintain. Jennifer stated that she did a site walk with Becky and was satisfied with the conditions.

Erum asked about the cleanup of the swales and if there needed to be further instruction? Is there a need to define it anymore for Eversource. Jim stated that as long as the clean up of the swales are done, they should be good for a number of years.

7:39 - Public Comment

No Public Comment

7:40 – Public Comment Closed

7:40 – The commission unanimously approve the Certificate of Compliance

7:40 - Request for Certificate of Compliance

DEP File #123-262

450 Kendall Street – South Plaza

Ken Fields from Fort Point Associates explained that the South Plaza was formally known as the South Lawn in Kendall Square, this plaza is in open space in between buildings with are owned by BioMed Realty Trust. The lawn was replaced by a platform, landscaping, performance area and the stormwater system was upgraded with trench drains and vegetation. All are doing well, but there is some fungi which is being monitored and will be replaced if needed. They provided an arborist report and inspection report on the trench drains well.

Jennifer Letourneau state that the work that was done does match the Notice of Intent and there was one order of conditions for the trench drain. No active construction onsite. All vegetation has taken well, and Jennifer walked the site recently.

David Lyons is unclear about when the work happened. Notice of Intent in 2015. Jennifer stated that parcel G was recently constructed, closed out all work. In 2015 the landscaping happened but neglected to close out the Certificate of Compliance.

7:48 – Public Comment Closed

Purvi asked if there were at maintenance provisions, no provision for the fungal problem. Jennifer stated they already have a plan in place and that they can include that in the special conditions.

7:49 - The commission unanimously approve the Certificate of Compliance

7:49 - Notice of Intent

DEP File # To Be Issued

450 Kendall Street - South Plaza Landscaping

Ken Fields explained that the project was the green strip along the board walk and plaza. Ken showed the commission the historic stone wall along the canal which is where the work will

occur. The wall along the water does have vegetation growing in it and mostly Japanese Knot Weed, he explained that most of it overgrown where you can't see down into the canal or up into the plaza.

This project includes bank and bordering land subject to flooding which are the areas that the commission has jurisdiction over. It's a man-made canal for commerce in the colonial era. It is a man-made bank although it's not a natural bank but will be treated as a bank.

The project entails alternations to the bank, will comply with standards, no damage to the bank and no alternations to the stability and will improve habitats with the vegetation. The land subject flooding is 15.64 Cambridge city base, the flooding zone occurs near one of the buildings to the left and out to Third Street. They did a survey and now the area is now out of the flood zone according to FEMA. They will avoid filling in the land subject to flooding and will make improvements to the area. Ken went over the maintenance of the invasive plants; the plants growing in the canal wall will be cut flush to the wall. Any vegetation that is healthy will be maintained in the area. The Japanese Knot Weed is to be cut to the root, and apply the stem with a herbicide. They are asking for the mix to be mixed for aquatic areas and specs will be submitted to Jennifer. The Japanese Knot Weed is a very invasive plant. There will be specific supervision when maintenance is being done or landscaping. All plants will be reviewed so they are disease free and of the right species for the area. They will review the erosion and sediment control which will be like a filtration sock.

Purvi asked if the 800 square feet was removed from flood maps. Ken stated it was not removed.

She asked if they are stabilizing the banks and make improvements. Purvi reviewed Jim Wilcox's review memo. She also said that 24-hour notice of the herbicide be applied.

Trees eight inches or greater will need special permits from the City. Ken and Clara said that all trees are shrubs, and all would be less than eight inches.

Erosion and Sediment Controls – silk curtains should consult to Jennifer prior to installing and also a spill kit on-site.

Ken said that he didn't think they called for a silk curtain, that they would be using a sock instead along the river. They would lay down the jut netting for the planting.

Jim Wilcox said that the silk curtain was referenced in the text. He said just a clarification in the text would be helpful. Jim said the silk curtain was not needed, but the text could be updated.

Erum asked about the cutting will be flush against the wall. She wanted to know if this will kill the growth. Or will they need to come back and maintain the plants? Ken said they will kill them if cut at the root. Clara said the plan is cut the leaves and growth to make them not grow, but the desire is to cut off anything that is making the plants live to make them die.

Purvi said that the plants in the wall will be cut but the only thing that will get the herbicide is the Japanese Knot Weed? Clara agreed.

Kaki feels comfortable with their plan.

David on the herbicide the method is to cut and swab and then to spray? Ken said they will spray the stems, there is will be no spraying of leaves. He said the spec in the plan's states spraying only because that they use backpack sprayers to apply the mix, but it will only be to the stems. David had a clarification of the map amendment of the flood map. Ken buffer zone to Third Street, he said the land is sloped. He said they filed with FEMA and they did and accepted it. They did not eliminate the area of the project.

8:20 – Public Comment Closed

Purvi striking the no trees being removed that are eight inches in diameter or greater in review memo. No silk curtain being used. Jennifer stated that the sock should not be staked or punctured, stakes can be crisscrossed. Ken agreed as long as it's in the order. She said she's concerned about the silk sock in place for it to be effective and if it can't be done a silk curtain will need to be used. If the silk curtain needs to be used, they will need to notify the Conservation Commission Director for prior approval.

8:25 – The commission unanimously approves the Notice of Intent

8:26 - Administrative Topic

Meeting Minutes from February 8, 2021 were approved.

No submittals for the April meeting.

8:32 – Meeting Adjourned