

## City of Cambridge Department of Public Works

*Katherine Watkins, Commissioner*

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**April 29, 2025**

TO: Planning Board

FROM: James Wilcox, PE  
City Engineer

**RE: Alewife Park-Jerrys Pond Flood Plain Special Permit**

We are in receipt of the Flood Plain Special Permit Application for the Alewife Park Jerrys Pond Project, dated March 17, 2025.

The project was previously reviewed by the DPW as part of the Notice of Intent Filing with the Conservation Commission. The review resulted in the approval of the project through the issuance of an Order of Conditions dated March 18, 2024. This review and approval confirm the project's consistency with the objectives of the Flood Plain Overlay District, Section 20.70 of the Zoning Ordinance.

The Conservation Commission process for the improvements to Jerrys Pond commenced in December of 2023 with the submission of a complete Notice of Intent Application and was completed with the issuance of the above noted Order of Conditions. The process included three (3) hearings that were advertised and open to public comment. The Commission also engaged Kleinfelder, an engineering consultant, to complete a peer review of the Notice of Intent submission.

After the thorough review process that included the Applicant and team responding to the Peer Review technical comments along with engagement with the community through the public comments, the Commission issued the Order of Conditions, which confirmed that the project was in compliance with the standards and requirements of the Massachusetts Wetland Protection Act specific to work in the Flood Plain and other jurisdictional areas.

Some items that we would like to highlight for the Board:

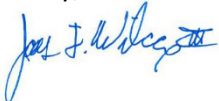
- The Flood Plain Special Permit plans are generally consistent with what was reviewed and approved by the Conservation Commission, with some additional details, as the project has advanced in design. Any changes to what was approved by the Commission, that may result from further development of the detailed design or through the Planning Board process, that change the project's impacts to the jurisdictional areas under the Wetland Protection Act will need to be presented to the Conservation Agent to determine if the changes would require further review by the Commission or if they could be managed under an administrative change.
- During the Conservation review process the work in the public right of way, specifically the proposed trees, were discussed at length. The City and the Applicant acknowledged that specific locations of street trees can be difficult to confirm at this level of design. Utility

conflicts, pedestrian accessibility of sidewalks and future plans for the Rindge Ave Corridor all may impact the Applicants' ability to locate trees as they are shown on the plans. As a result of this, Special Condition #32 was included in the Order of Conditions. This condition indicates that the City will work the Applicant on the locations of any/all street trees and commits the Applicant to planting a specific number of caliper inches of trees project wide. Meaning, if any of the street trees cannot be planted as planned, additional on-site planting will need to be planted to mitigate the change.

- All jurisdictional tree removals and mitigation plantings will be reviewed by the Urban Forestry Division under the Tree Protection Ordinance.

We look forward to working with the Development team other City Departments on this project. Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns related to the comments or information provided above.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "James J. Wilcox".

James Wilcox, P.E.  
City Engineer