



City of Cambridge Conservation Commission

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Public Meeting – Thursday, June 18, 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), David Lyons (Vice Chair), Erum Sattar, Elyse Magnotto-Cleary, Kathryn Hess

Absent Commission Members: Purvi Patel (Chair), Ted Pickering, Kaki Martin

Attendees: Tracy Dwyer, Cambridge Public Works; James Wilcox, Cambridge Public Works; Dominic Marchis; Shady Hill School, Maureen Nunez; Shady Hill School, Meredith Chamberlain; MacNeely Architects, Miles Connors; Parterre, Joshua Soares; Nitsch Engineering, Dawit Gelaye; Cambridge IT Department

David Lyons opened the meeting.

7:03 - Request for Determination

Shady Hill School
Building Renovations

Joshua Soares from Nitsch Engineering gave an overview of the project. Shady Hill School is located at 178 Coolidge Avenue, more specifically the renovations will be taking place at buildings 514, 515 and 508 where decking improvements will be made. Building 508 will need stair improvements and the concrete piers are within the one hundred (100) foot buffer and in the resource area. Water run on-site is drained in catch basins which drain into the Charles River. Meredith Chamberlain from MacNeely Architects explains to the commission that the decking that will be replaced will be with repository decking material and that no additional footings need to be added. Jim Wilcox had asked about how they would accomplish replacing decking on the bridge but Meredith from MacNeely stated that the bridge boards will be replaced one at a time and no other framing or footings will be needed. She explained that stairs will need to be replaced and in accordance to the City they were required to put in a ramp for ADA compliance. Joshua stated that erosion and sediment controls will be in place and they will add in a detail for the inlet protection and extend straw wattles. Joshua also answered Jim Wilcox's statement about the wetland delineation flags said that they would check them but thought they should be

still in place. Dominic from Shady Hill School would check for the flags but since they were placed in the spring they thought they should still be there.

David Lyon's asked with the school installing a new ramp would there be more footings? Meredith stated that six (6) more footings would be installed.

Erum Sattar asked about the temporary fencing on sheet C-1. She asked who long was temporary if they had a sense of when they would be able to take down the fence? Joshua said they had no way of knowing right now the sequencing of the work being done by the contractor, he estimated that the job should take a few days to complete. Erum wanted to be sure that it was a temporary fence and it wasn't something that would be forgotten about and left.

No public comment.

7:25 – Public Comment was Closed.

Jennifer Letourneau asked the commission if they would vote on the negative determination. The special conditions were; updates to the Erosion and Sediment Controls, revisions to Jim outlined in his memo and construction schedule to be submitted.

7:27 – The Commission approved the Negative Determination

7:28 - Request for Determination

Shady Hill School

Vegetation Management Plan for Wetland Resource Areas

Miles Connors from Parterre was present to explain the project and process for removing invasive species from the property at the Shady Hill School. Miles stated that invasives would be removed and native plants replaced and restored. The maintenance would occur on land as well as in the drainage channel and the wetland areas. The wetlands areas would include the "Hub Wetland", the "Music Wetland" and the "512 Wetland" which are the areas in between these buildings. The sediments would be removed, yellow flag iris and small Norway Maples and other invasive species. The process for removal would be manual, with hand pulling, cutting and anything over two inches would be the cut and dap process. The native plant restoration would include wildflowers and other native species such as Elderberry and native Dogwood. The natives would be pugs, seeds and live staking which would take place in November and March.

Miles explained they would have a maintenance and monitoring plan, the one that was given to the commission would be updated with the corrected dates. Miles also said he would give the school an annual report and any other notes to the school.

They reviewed Jim Wilcox's review of the plan's memo and the only thing that would need to update was the dates from the maintenance and monitoring plan.

Kathryn Hess asked if their would be educational opportunities for the students and staff with this project? Maureen Nunez, Chief Operating Officer fro Shady Hill stated that they would be working with Miles to include some circulum with the project.

David Lyon's asked what was the issue with the Yellow Iris? Miles stated they can push out the native species. These Yellow Iris were prominent in the "Music Wetland" and the "Red Maple Wetland". David also asked if there were other permits that they would need from the City for this project? They discussed the new City Tree Ordinance and said there would be possibly one tree that was over eight inches that they would have to discuss with the school whether they wanted to move forward with removing it.

Jennifer Letourneau commended Miles on the Maintenance and Monitoring document that they put together for this project and said it was a living document and would be a great model for the Conservation Commission, school and others.

Elysse Magnotto-Cleary asked about the reporting on page ten (10), license pesticides, signage and notification. She asked how and when that would happen with everything going on with COVID? Miles stated he would need to hear back from the Registry of Deeds, that would be the waiting part of this. He said they would need to decide what the best plan of action would be and said that July-September is a good time to cut invasive. The school is ready to move forward as soon as possible as they have approved financials for this project.

Erum Sattar asked how long it takes for invasive to take over? Miles stated that invasives spread by wind and birds and are dispersed he said it could take ten to fifteen years for them to fully invade. He stated that people are really surprised projects like this can move forward and actually can be maintained especially in the aspect to manage wetlands, most people like that it's governed and people can't maintain it.

7:58 – Public Comment Closed

7:59 – The Commission unanimously approves the Notice of Intent with order of conditions and revisions to the Maintenance and Monitoring document.

8:00 – **Administrative Topic**

Meeting Minutes from April 15,2020 were approved.
The next meeting will be July 20, 2020 via Zoom.

8:05 – **Meeting Adjourned**