



City of Cambridge Conservation Commission

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Public Meeting – Monday, November 15, 2021 at 7:00 PM Zoom 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), Kathryn Hess, Michelle Lane, Elysse Magnotto-Cleary, Erum Sattar

Absent Commission Members: Kaki Martin

Attendees: Tracy Dwyer, DPW; Gene Crouch, VHB; Stefanie Beaver, VHB; Kelly Siri, VHB; Patrick Callahan, Halvorson Design; Stella Lensing, DCR

Purvi Patel opened the meeting.

7:01 – Notice of Intent

DEP File #123-309

Marsh Post Parking Lot Reconstruction Project – Greenough Blvd

Department of Conservation and Recreations

Continued from August 16, 2021

Stella Lensing from Department of Conservation & Recreation (DCR) the Project Manager was joined by Gene Crouch from VHB. Stella stated they recently complete the Greenough Boulevard project with an elimination of a lane and new bike and pedestrian facilities in 2017. DCR wanted to make sure they had a safe pedestrian and bike trails for Eliot Bridge and other trails leading to the Charles River as well as improvements to the parking area of the Marsh Post. Gene Crouch from VHB explained that the project borders the river with 100-foot buffer zone at the river and Hell's Half Acre. There will be trees removed or relocated as well as some new trees and shrubs to be planted as part of the project. As part of the project, they are trying to eliminate some conflicts with the vehicle traffic and bikes and pedestrians in the parking lot area. Gene stated that there were some conflicts with the Paul White bike path between Hell's Half Acre and the property leading to the Eliot Bridge, as well as the bike path on the opposite side all conflict with vehicular traffic in the parking area. As part of this project, they will reconfigure the entrance to the parking and bike path that crosses the driveway. They will also be adding in a paver intersection near the Marsh Post building for crossing of bikes, pedestrians and vehicular traffic. Gene explained that there will also be some added stormwater management features

added into the site like infiltrating basins. Gene turned over the conversation to Kelly Siry from VHB. Kelly explained that there were three existing catch basins that tie in to one manhole which flows to the Charles River. Kelly stated that currently there is no infiltration before going into the river. As part of this project, they will remove two of the catch basins in the paved parking area and rather sheet flow the run off from the parking lot into the infiltration areas. Also, they will turn one catch basin into a manhole to maintain a connection to the wetlands with infiltration. As part of this they will also be removing 67% phosphorous and soils which would have been added to the Charles River TDML. In the paved area they will be adding in a jellyfish unit which would remove 59% phosphorous. Also, as part of this project they will be adding in a trench drain under the Eliot Bridge to elevate flooding that currently happens in rain events. The trench drain will flow into a leaching basin.

Gene stated that VHB responded to DPW's comments from the August 16, 2021 meeting and they were satisfied.

Jennifer Letourneau asked about the research of the jellyfish unit. She asked if this unit was approved by DEP and would like a copy of the memo with their approval.

Kelly responded and said that they unit currently is not approved by Massachusetts DEP and they would get no credit for the unit, but DEP and DCR understand the improvements that will be made. Gene stated that this is a newer technology, but this was being used in New Jersey and Maine.

Jennifer asked if they could forward guidance, memo and approvals to her.

Puvi Patel asked if this was something that should be added into the special conditions of the order of conditions.

Jennifer stated that they could add in that it was not approved by DEP and they should have had O & M plan, understanding of the function of the product and calculations, but no credit taken on Notice of Intent.

Kelly wanted to be clear that this would not be treating the whole site but an area.

7:23 – Public Comment Closed

David Lyons stated that he found that the technology was used in Washington State, Canada and New Jersey.

Kathryn Hess stated that she was concerned that some of the areas are not included in the stormwater management of the site.

Stella responded and said that the American Legion in a leased property and that is not part of the project, so the areas around the building are not included in the project.

Gene stated that they would be resurfacing the parking lot, reseeding some of the grassy areas, but they white area depicted in the map shown was not being touched. They would not be touching the patio area and no changes to the lawn area or landscaping so the existing run off would continue.

Kathryn asked about the stormwater from the American Legion building.

Gene stated that roof run off will continue as it has been, no changes have been made.

Stella stated that they were limiting work near the river.

Kathryn thought it was odd that they would exclude area from the project where stormwater will eventually flow from other areas.

Gene stated that they would like to limit work at the river front and grassy areas. He stated that currently the grassy area along the river drains into the river.

Michelle Lane asked about the project timeline.

Stella stated once they have the OOC, they will bid the project in the winter (January), the bid period is eight to twelve weeks. They would plan on the start of construction in April/May and the typical contract period is 730 days but she felt like the project would be completed sooner.

Michelle asked that they be mindful of the pedestrians and bikes and be sure that detours are in place because this area is heavily used.

Stella stated that they would have the contractor come up with a detour plan for DCR to approve. They would like about overflow parking areas and alternative detours for pedestrians and cyclists.

Michelle stated that they should not have a complete closure of the site because people will come up with creative handmade detours.

Jennifer stated that special conditions could include monitoring for the jellyfish unit, detours and TMP's, construction mitigation – tree protection, catch basin protection and post construction mitigation.

7:37 – The commission unanimously agreed to approve the Order of Conditions with the Special Conditions.

7:44 – Administrative Topics

Meeting minutes from October 25, 2021 – approved

IQHQ would like to have a special meeting on November 29, 2021 at 7:00 pm

7:57 – Meeting Adjourned