



City of Cambridge Conservation Commission

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Public Meeting – Monday, February 10, 2020 at 7:00PM 147 Hampshire Street, Main Conference Room MEETING MINUTES

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

Present Commission Members: Elysse Magnotto-Cleary, Kathryn Hess, Jennifer Letourneau (Director), David Lyons (Vice Chair), Kaki Martin, Ted Pickering, Erum Sattar

Absent Commission Members: Purvi Patel (Chair),

Attendees: Tracy Dwyer, Cambridge Public Works; James Wilcox, Cambridge Public Works; Sean Scannell, Epsilon Associates; Dwight Dunk, Epsilon Associates; Marty Deluga, MIT; Kelley Brown, MIT

David Lyons opened the hearing.

7:01 – Notice of Intent

MIT Pierce Boathouse – Temporary Facility at Magazine Beach DEP #123-300

Kelley Brown from MIT went through the project and explained to the commission that a temporary facility would need to be set-up because the original project is not going to be complete in time for the rowing season.

Dwight Dunk and Sean Scannell were there from Epsilon Associates to go over the technical aspects of the project. Dwight explained that there is Bordering Vegetated Wetland as well as the one-hundred-foot buffer and land subject to flooding with this project. There would be a floating dock with metal pipes pushed into the banks to secure the gangways. The vegetation would be cut at grade for this project. Orange construction fencing would outline the pathway to the gangways, a temporary tent would be erected for inclement weather, along with the trailer for the skulls and a porta potty. Dwight stated that Jennifer asked that they put up signage as well as breaks in the fencing for access along the river. Dwight told the commission that the area would be completed restored and they would be working with DCR on aerating and seeding the area and will re-inspect with them in the fall. He stated that they would place straw walls along the river for erosion and sediment control.

David Lyons asked about the work at the boathouse and what their timeline is.

Marty Deluga from MIT stated that they are finishing up demolition work and would be completed with the project by rowing season in September. Kelley Brown from MIT added that they are working on the work for the Chapter 91 license, exterior work and dock work. Jennifer stated that she did a walkthrough with them today, February 10 at the Pierce Boathouse.

James Wilcox asked if there would be any vehicles on-site? And if so that they should have a spill kit available, the Epsilon team agreed.

Elysse asked if there were other MIT groups using the Pierce Boathouse or any other programming? Kelley Brown stated that in the past they have let other teams use the facility as well as had some summer programming but that has all been cancelled for this year.

Jennifer asked if they would be securing any launches to the docks? Marty stated that no launches would be stored at the temporary facility. They would be storing them at other facilities and only bring them to the temporary facility on an as needed basis. Dwight stated that the only boats that would be stored on-site are the sculls on the trailer.

Ted Pickering asked if they would need to tie-up the dock, should they be more secure than what is planned?

Dwight stated that there is no current in the Charles River because of the dam, the only thing they would need to worry about is the wind and they feel confident that they would not need to drive the piles in that pushing them in would be enough. Marty stated that they posts are only two inches in diameter so pushing them in would be sufficient.

Kathryn Hess asked about the security of the dock and would the public have access to the dock area? And would this be a liability for MIT?

Kelley stated that they would have access to the docks, and it would possess as a liability to MIT. He stated that the temporary construction fencing will be tied up when team is not rowing but that will not really keep people out.

Erum Sattar asked what the total footage of the area being affected is?

Dwight said that the total would be about nine thousand (9000) square feet plus the gangway is about three hundred and twenty (320) square feet.

Jennifer asked if they intended to have signage on the docks facing the water?

Marty said they haven't thought about that just signage on the fencing regarding the project, but they would put up signage on the dock.

Elysse asked when they would be opening the DCR pool? Jennifer stated those facilities usually don't open up till after school is out, so some time in June. There would be no conflicts with the temporary facility.

Kaki Martin asked if there should be a check in on the schedule? The commission would want to be certain that there is no need for the temporary facility in the fall season. Elysse stated wouldn't they be done with rowing in May? Dwight stated that a temporary permit was issued by the Army Corps and that all work needed to be completed by June, so they would need to remove everything by then.

Kaki asked about who would be doing the landscaping work? Marty said that they would most likely reach out to Valley Crest to get the work done because what they are planting is specialized.

Kaki stated that Jennifer should do the walkthrough as well with DCR and she stated that the availability of the plants that they would need to acquire are only available for a limited time and would probably be hard to find at the time of restoration.

Kelley asked if it would be possible for them to procure the plants and hold them until they are needed. Kaki agreed that would be a good idea. Marty stated that he would reach out to the landscaper sooner than anticipated.

Kathryn asked if the path that they were creating with the orange construction fence would be wide enough for the boats and people carrying them?

Dwight agreed that the path would be wide enough.

Jennifer stated that in Jim's memo that he asked about the maintenance of the facility. Marty stated that they would have their staff from MIT make weekly visits.

Jennifer also stated that she received today, February 10th a letter from Cathie Zusy of the Magazine Beach Partners were in favor of the project.

There was no public comment and public comment was closed.

Jennifer stated that the project would require all the special conditions as well as weekly inspections, there would be stated in the permit that no launch boats would be stored at the temporary facility and an inspection walkthrough before and after would be performed by Jennifer.

The commission unanimously agreed to approve the Notice of Intent.

7:30 – Administrative Topics

Meeting Minutes from January 27, 2020 meeting were approved.

Jennifer updated the commission that King Street Properties would be attending the February 24, 2020 meeting with an informational presentation on the Offsite Bike Path Concept located at 101 Cambridgepark Drive. After the commission hears about the project, they can move forward with drafting a response letter to the Planning Board regarding their opposition of the project, if that is what they unanimously agree upon.

7:41 – Meeting Adjourned

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