

November 21, 2019 - Fresh Pond Reservation Master Plan Advisory Board Minutes

Submitted: Sam Corda – October 22, 2020

Advisory Board Members in Attendance:

Janice Snow (Chair), David Kaplan, Janet Burns, Deborah Masterson, Jennifer Letourneau, David Lyons, Claudia Thompson, Sophia Emperador, Adam Corbeil.

Advisory Board Members Not in Attendance:

Jim Barton, Ann Roosevelt, Candace Young and Susan Agger

Water Department in Attendance:

Sam Corda, Jamie O'Connell, Tim Puopolo and Vincent Falcione

Others in Attendance:

Jan Devereux, City Councilor, Kara Falise and Kathy Watkins - DPW

Meeting opened at 6:04 pm

Meeting Minutes: S. Corda

Item 1: Review Agenda

It was recommended that item 5 be discussed after the minutes.

Item 2: Meeting Minutes

Janet Burns moved, and Deborah Masterson seconded the motion to approve the May 16, 2019 minutes as written. The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

Claudia Thompson moved, and Deborah Masterson seconded the motion to approve the September 19, 2019 minutes as written. The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

Item 5a: Glacken Field and Tot Lot Renovation Project

Kara Felice along with Kathy Watkins presented the initial proposal and project timeline.

Baseball Fields: Glacken field which was previously to be the temporary site for West Cambridge Little League (WCLL) during Tobin School construction is now planned as a permanent field site for Little League. WCLL currently uses three fields at the Tobin School. For much of the duration of the Tobin School construction there will be no fields for the WCLL to play on. Tobin's Callahan playground redesign is now expected to have only one baseball field. The renovated Glacken field will be host two WCLL fields. The two fields with regulation distance of 200 ft from home plate to the outfield fence will be fit into the existing Glacken Field area.

Project Timeline: Spring of 2020 start with fields ready to be played on in the Spring of 2021.

Tot Lot: will be renovated at its existing location.

Pathways: A 10' wide path is proposed at the buffer between the fields and the woodland slope. A sidewalk connection, on Huron Avenue, from the existing sidewalk in front of the Golf Course Club House to Fresh Pond Parkway is also part of this project. All the new pathways/sidewalks will be ADA Compliant.

For this project to move forward the existing concrete bleachers will be removed.

Since the last meeting with the Fresh Pond Advisory Board the WCLL has asked if lighting could be used on the back field to extend playing time to accommodate the temporary loss of a 3rd field.

Landscape & Stormwater Management: The fields will be graded such that the runoff will be significantly improved as to minimize any erosion on the slope facing Fresh Pond. Also, the back pathway will not be plowed in the Winter months. Any new plantings and trees will be selected from the recently revised Fresh Pond Master Plan Planting List.

Other Amenities: The plan is to include an informal play area on the Huron Avenue/tennis court corner of the project and there will be the typical baseball field amenities, such as fences dugouts, stands and a batting cage and also toilets.

Fresh Pond Advisory Board members key concerns and consensus on the following:

- 1) There should be a fence and/or a buffer to separate the ball fields and the wooded area adjacent to Fresh Pond. This will reduce balls being lost in the woods and [x] desire lines down the slope potentially creating compaction and erosion.
- 2) There should be no lighting of the fields given the effect on the restored adjacent native woodlands.
- 3) The planned pathway along the edge of the forested slope should be reduced in width or eliminated.
- 4) Ensure that the ball fields will be minimally fertilized to reduce nutrient loading to Fresh Pond;
- 5) Use the Fresh Pond Master Plan Plant list for all plantings including trees
- 6) Consider working with the Water Department to add the Glacken Slope restoration to this project.
- [(7) Toilet structures should be moved away from the wooded slopes.]

A Special January Board Meeting was agreed to for the Design Team for Glacken Field to meet with the Fresh Pond Advisory Board as the design progresses. The typical date for the Board to meet is the third Thursday of the month.

Item 5 b. Golf Course Update: (A. Corbeil)

Over 50 trees are being planted at the golf course mostly near Little Fresh Pond. There will be a nursery/plant holding area adjacent to the maintenance building.

The native plant buffer area adjacent to Little Fresh Pond and Black's Nook was mowed to the height of fairway grass. The Board recommended that the buffer area be demarcated with permanent markers to prevent this from happening in the future. A suggested agenda item for the March 2020 meeting was the importance of these no-mow areas for protecting bird and native habitat.

Item 3: Watershed Manager's Report (D. Kaplan)

DCR Greenway: There are drainage issues mostly in Watertown with some in Cambridge as well. These areas are being redesigned by the DCR's consultant.

Black's Nook Pond Study: An aquatic and vegetation survey as well as water quality testing will be performed.

The Black's Nook fence should be completed in a few weeks.

Item 4: Landscape Maintenance Report: Deferred until the next regular meeting.

Item 6: Volunteer Report: Annual Update (T. Puopolo)

Most of the volunteer hours were from these organizations: *The Friends of Fresh Pond, Green Cambridge/Cambridge Wildlife Puppetry Project, Earthwise Aware* and *People Making a Difference*. There were twelve corporate and school sponsored "days of service".

Significant efforts were in 1) Black's Nook where over 4000 individual invasive plants were removed and 2) in the Woodland Habitat Restoration Project Area.

Item 7: Reservation Usage Report: (J. O'Connell)

A number of sensors placed around the Reservation and visual surveys are used to estimate Reservation visits by the public. Walkers are the heaviest users followed by runners. Cyclists make up less than 10 percent of users. The heaviest use is on weekends from 9 to 11 am and from 2 to 5 pm. Currently the sensors do not pick up small children and dogs. Next years census should add this data.

Please use the link below to see the eco-counter presentation made by Ms. O'Connell.

https://www.cambridgema.gov/~media/Files/waterdepartment/Watershed/Reports/2018_Final_ExecSummary.pdf

Item 8: Preliminary Agenda for March 19, 2020 Advisory Board Meeting

Golf Course; Watershed Manager Report; Project Updates; Volunteer Report; Effects of Mooney Street Development on Black's Nook.

Item 9: Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Claudia Thompson moved, and David Kaplan seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting. The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 8:20pm.