

CAMBRIDGE WATER BOARD

**MEETING MINUTES**

December 11, 2019

This meeting was called to order at 5:04 p.m. at 250 Fresh Pond Parkway, in Cambridge, Massachusetts. Those in attendance were:

**Cambridge Water Board (CWB):** Ann Roosevelt, Jason Marshall, Kathleen Kelly and James Burruss

**Cambridge Water Department (CWD):** Sam Corda, Fred Centanni, Jamie O’Connell, Ed Dowling, Mark Gallagher and Linda Vierboom

**Department of Public Works:** Kathy Watkins - City Engineer and Kara Falise – DPW Project Engineer

**A. MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 12, 2019 MEETING**

Ms. Kelly moved, and Mr. Burruss seconded the motion to approve the November 12, 2019 minutes as written.

**B. MANAGING DIRECTOR’S REPORT**

*Glacken Field Renovation Project* – Design upgrade/renovation of the Glacken Field which supports the little league field permanent relocation from the Tobin School, in slide format, as presented by Kathy Watkins and Kara Falise. Please use the link below to view the presentation.

[https://www.cambridgema.gov/~media/Files/waterdepartment/waterboardminutes/glacken\\_presentation\\_november\\_2019.pdf?la=en](https://www.cambridgema.gov/~media/Files/waterdepartment/waterboardminutes/glacken_presentation_november_2019.pdf?la=en)

Currently at Glacken Field there is one little league field and a tot lot. Proposed is two full size (natural grass) little league baseball fields and a renovated tot lot. This project is undergoing a public process. The Fresh Pond Master Plan Advisory Board (FPAB) has seen this presentation and provided feedback. The FPAB has requested that the Glacken Field design be consistent with the Fresh Pond Master Plan. A brief summary of their comments is as follows: the installment of native plantings only, planted buffer between the project and the slope, improved drainage, appropriate maintenance, and preferably no athletic field lighting.

After two community meetings and the user group discussions, the current design was conceptualized. Ms. Watkins said clear direction would be helpful and feedback and comments are solicited from the board. The conceptual design includes fencing, dug outs, batting cages, athletic netting and a modest amount of spectator seating. The current concrete bleachers will be removed to create better connectivity from the neighborhood to the fields. CDD and DPW are looking to extend that connection all the way down to Fresh Pond Parkway, with a sidewalk/path. The tennis and basketball areas will not be changed. A removable fence will be in the middle of the playing fields and a fence with taller ball netting will be next to the tot lot area. A measurable quarter mile, 10-foot-wide walkway around the entire baseball facility is

Key Topics: Election of the President, Glacken Field Renovation, South of Main Street Project Summary

planned. Pocket areas around the site will provide opportunities for casual or passive recreation. A small overlook, with a 4- or 5-foot berm to sit and watch the game is also planned.

The tot lot has been redesigned with a conscious approach of integrating the natural features of the site and engaging opportunities for play elements. Water play is popular with the community and the proposal includes water play ability using traditional elements such as swings and trees and re-using water. As homage to the bygone days of ice harvesting at Fresh Pond, the designer is playing with ideas of ice blocks/ice houses. Existing trees will be maintained.

Other City initiatives such as climate change and resiliency planning and the Fresh Pond Master Plan are included in the scope of planning.

The schedule is tight for the playing field. Ideally it will go out to bid late February 2020 with construction to commence summer 2020, with the tot lot construction to occur at the same time.

The West Cambridge Little league folks are asking for field lighting. The proposal is to light the rear inset field using standard LED lighting.

*Comments/Questions: When would the playing field lighting be on? Is the current field at Tobin School currently equipped with lights?* The Tobin School does not have lights. Ms. Watkins said we will be going down from 3 fields to 2 fields; lighting will help maximize playing time and lights would be on to support games up until about 8:30 pm. The proposed lighting would be 60 – 70' tall. Trees at this location are roughly about that tall. Although similar to the lights currently in place at Russell and Donnelly Fields, the proposed lighting would utilize newer technology. Ms. Watkins said she will send lighting locations of similar lights in the City to the board via an email. The basketball court is currently lighted.

Ms. Kelly is against lighting the field. Ms. Kelly said we are getting pressure to light the new bike path and there are also concerns of lighting patterns on wild life, birds and plants. Ms. Kelly also noted the incredible amount of development around Fresh Pond and foresees increased pressures and her concern is that if we light the ball park there will be other lighting requests. Her wish is to respect the habitat with emphasis of wildlife. Mr. Marshall, Ms. Roosevelt and Mr. Burruss were not ready to say yay or nay. Mr. Marshall noted a difference between lighting of the bike path, which is surrounded by forest, and the proposed lighting at Glacken Field adjacent to the basketball court and other facilities that already have lighting. Ms. Roosevelt thinks for the little time it would be needed it's not worth it. She is also concerned that if lights were put in people would want more. Ms. Roosevelt would like to explore ways that could not happen if we do decide on lighting the park, whether it's a waterboard ruling or whatever.

*South of Main Street (SoMa) Project Summary:* Please see the presentation on the SoMa Project using the link below.

[https://www.cambridgema.gov/~media/Files/waterdepartment/waterboardminutes/SoMA\\_project\\_overview.pdf?la=en](https://www.cambridgema.gov/~media/Files/waterdepartment/waterboardminutes/SoMA_project_overview.pdf?la=en)

Mark Gallagher, Director for Engineering and Distribution, gave a presentation about the current status of the ongoing SoMa Project. This MIT development project has been in construction for approximately two years. It is an opportunity to transform the five parking lots owned by MIT and its east campus into a new, fully urban, mixed use district in the heart of Kendall Square; which will include the addition of 5 new buildings totaling 1.4 million square feet, as well as, additional green space. Proposed retail, restaurants, green space, day care, etc... Major improvements/upgrades were made to the City's water distribution system significantly increasing the redundancy and reliability of the water system that feeds the Kendall Square area. It is anticipated that the development will use approximately 306,300 gallons of water per day for domestic water demand. Rainwater collection cisterns will be used to supplement demands.

The section of water main on Main Street that was rehabilitated with Cured in Place Pipe (CIPP) in 2014 was discussed. Because of the problematic nature/location of the CIPP lined water main on top of the MBTA tunnel in Main Street there was no possibility of replacing this main via conventional trenching methods.

### **C. OPERATIONS**

#### **Transmission and Distribution:**

*Comments/Questions:*

*Do we have a plan with the SoMa Project and other future developments to ensure plenty of water supply?* Mr. Corda said that due to extensive water conservation efforts, water consumption has been dropping and/or keeping steady despite the population growth of the City. In a worst-case scenario, which is not projected for the foreseeable future, we could supplement our water supply by purchasing MWRA water.

#### **Watershed:**

No Comments

#### **Business:**

No Comments

#### **Water Operations:**

No Comments

#### **Engineering:**

No Comments

### **D. ACTION ITEMS**

*Election of the President:*

Ms. Roosevelt was nominated to be President of the Cambridge Water Board for 2020.

Mr. Marshall moved, and Ms. Kelly seconded the motion to elect Ms. Roosevelt as President of the Cambridge Water Board for 2020. The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

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**E. MISCELLANEOUS CORRESPONDENCE AND ITEMS OF INTEREST**

No Comments

**F. NEW BUSINESS**

None

**G. NEXT MEETING DATES/TOPICS**

- January 14, 2020: Approved/Fresh Pond Reservation Rules and Regulations Discussion
- February 11, 2020: Approved/TBD
- March 10, 2020: TBA/TBD
- April 14, 2020: TBA/TBD
- May 12, 2020: TBA/TBD
- June 9, 2020: TBA/TBD

Mr. Burruss moved, and Ms. Roosevelt seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:22 p.m. The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.