

Key Topics: DPW Designs Update on Glacken Field and Sidewalk (to Fresh Pond Pkwy), PFAS Update, Fresh Pond Rules and Regulations Review Continuation.

CAMBRIDGE WATER BOARD

MEETING MINUTES

March 10, 2020

This meeting was called to order at 5:01 p.m. at 250 Fresh Pond Parkway, in Cambridge, Massachusetts. Those in attendance were:

Cambridge Water Board (CWB): Jason Marshall, James Burruss and Kathleen Kelly
Cambridge Water Department (CWD): Sam Corda, Dave Kaplan, Jamie O’Connell, Ed Dowling, and Linda Vierboom
Department of Public Works (DPW): Kara Falise /DPW Project Engineer and Kathy Watkins/City Engineer
Veteran’s Memorial Marker Representatives- Kevin Doyle and David Holway

A. MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 11, 2020 MEETING

Jason Marshall moved, and Mr. Burruss seconded the motion to approve the February 11, 2020 minutes as written.

B. MANAGING DIRECTOR’S REPORT

Veteran’s Memorial Marker: Representatives Kevin Doyle and David Holway asked for the support and the endorsement of the Water Board regarding an upgrade to the existing Vietnam Veteran Michael Guzzetti’s Memorial Marker which is located on CWD property at the corner of Fresh Pond Parkway and Huron Avenue. The upgrade would include the installation of a standard 40’ flagpole and a solar powered single light; in dedication to all Cambridge veterans. Veteran’s and some City Councilors have given full support to the upgrade. It was suggested by Mr. Kaplan that the Fresh Pond Master Plan section regarding memorials and dedications be looked over to see if this request is consistent. Mr. Corda suggested the Water Board take the upgrade under advisement; check the Master Plan and then get back to the representatives. Mr. Marshall indicated the Board could be ready to vote at the April 2020 meeting.

Glacken Field Renovation Project: Update by Kara Falise and Kathy Watkins. There have been a few changes since the last update. There will be a five-foot-wide sidewalk and a bike lane in the roadway. Phase 6 Glacken Slope Stabilization hasn’t changed much since the last presentation. The slope stabilization is included in the bid documents for the field work. There will be a connection from Fresh Pond to Glacken Field. The 10’ wide bike facility will now be designed into the 50-foot Huron Avenue right-of-way, as part of the Huron Ave roadway full depth reconstruction portion of this project. The sidewalk will remain within the Reservation and will be reduced to a five-foot-wide porous pavement sidewalk for pedestrian accessibility. Mr. Burruss likes the design. Ms. Kelly is pleased they listened and came back with an improvement but has concerns. “Should we give up any green space” questioned Ms. Kelly and asked if the 2-way bike lane could be moved to the other side of the street, thus keeping CWD land intact. Ms. Watkins said there are fewer conflicts keeping the bike path on the Fresh Pond side. Mr. Marshall is impressed with the design and the concept which he indicated balanced a number of interests. Mr. Marshall said that opening up new recreational use with a safe way to transport kids fills a long-needed gap and he supports the concept and the design. A council order came through several years ago requesting the installation of an ADA compliant sidewalk in this area to connect Glacken to Fresh Pond Parkway.

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Lighting: Mr. Corda said the Fresh Pond Master Plan allows for lighting “*for recreational purposes at Glacken Field*”. Mr. Marshall thinks it’s consistent with the master plan and suggests the lighting topic could be revisited. Mr. Burruss is neutral on the topic. The City Council approved funding for the Glacken Field Restoration Project which included the lighting of a single athletic field within the Project. Standard, athletic field lighting is proposed. The lighting would be used for games and practices, as needed for safety from April to September, with automatic shut off at 9:00pm. Games are only played on weekends. The proposal is to light the rear field only. This field is adjacent to the basketball and tennis areas which already have lights. Ms. Kelly suggested a compromise, such as lighting but no sidewalk. Ms. Watkins said, “she would have a hard time due to safety.” Mr. Kaplan said a 4-foot-wide sidewalk was originally discussed but it was purely conceptual but not adopted. Ms. Watkins would like a formal vote on the lighting and could come back with detailed plans on the sidewalk when available. The Water Board approves the “Concept” of a 5-foot sidewalk and lighting.

Mr. Marshall moved, and Mr. Burruss seconded the motion to support the installation of lighting for one field at Glacken, consistent with the Fresh Pond Master Plan, and the lights are to be turned off no later than 9pm; subject to seasonal baseball use only (back field). The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

PFAS Update: The Pilot Study application was submitted today and is pending Mass DEP approval; should take less than a month. Once approved we will ship about 600 gallons of water to the testing lab in Washington State. This bench scale column testing will help us to understand how much of the PFAS Compounds can be removed, utilizing Granular Activated Carbon (GAC), and for how long before we need to replace the GAC. The goal is to reduce the PFAS Compounds to below 10 ppt. All results should be available by June/July 2020. This will be the first PFAS removal testing of its kind in Massachusetts

Fresh Pond Reservation Rules and Regulations: The Watershed Division presented suggested changes to the rules and regulations for the Board to consider. This review will continue at future meetings.

Corona Virus Planning: The City manager is having a meeting with department heads. CWD has had pandemic planning/training in the past. CWD has a 2- day supply of water and can purchase MWRA water if for some reason that is needed.

C. OPERATIONS

Transmission and Distribution:

No Comments

Watershed:

No Comments

Business:

No Comments

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Water Operations:

No Comments

Engineering:

No Comments

D. ACTION ITEMS

Mr. Marshall moved, and Mr. Burruss seconded the motion to support the installation of lighting for one field at Glacken, consistent with the Fresh Pond Master Plan, and the lights are to be turned off no later than 9pm; subject to seasonal baseball use only (back field). The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

E. MISCELLANEOUS CORRESPONDENCE AND ITEMS OF INTEREST

No Comments

F. NEW BUSINESS

None

G. NEXT MEETING DATES/TOPICS

- ~~April 14, 2020: TBA/TBD (Pandemic)~~
- ~~May 12, 2020: TBA/TBD (Pandemic)~~
- ~~June 9, 2020: TBA/TBD (Pandemic)~~

Mr. Marshall moved, and Mr. Burruss seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:44 p.m. The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.