

March 16, 2017 - Fresh Pond Reservation Master Plan Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

Submitted: Sam Corda – September 7, 2017

Advisory Board Members in Attendance:

Janice Snow (Chair), David Kaplan, Susan Agger, Jim Barton, Doug Brown, Janet Burns, Adam Corbeil, Jennifer Letourneau, Deborah Masterson, Jamie Porreca, Kathleen Kelly (For Ann Roosevelt)

Advisory Board Members Not in Attendance:

Lauren McPherson-Siegrist, Ann Roosevelt, Candace Young, Claudia Thompson

Water Department in Attendance:

Sam Corda, Tim MacDonald, Vincent Falcione, Martine Wong

Public in Attendance:

None

Meeting opened at 6:07 pm

Meeting Minutes: S. Corda

Item 1: Review Agenda

Moved item 7 up to become 2A

Item 2: Meeting Minutes

Deborah Masterson moved and Jim Barton seconded the motion to accept the January 19, 2017 meeting minutes as written. The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

Item 2A (Item 7): Volunteer Project Reports

Martine Wong, Volunteer & Water Department Outreach Coordinator reported that in 2016 volunteers contributed 1963 hours to the following Reservation projects: (1) woodland restoration (2) special events such as Fresh Pond Day (3) group volunteer events, (4) Thursdays' Wake up and Weed program 5) and solo stewardship weeding. Further details are summarized in the attachment, "Fresh Pond Stewards Volunteer Update - 3/16/17"

When asked what weeds were the most problematic Martine said in order of difficulty: mugwort, phragmites and knotweed.

Item 3: Update: City Lighting Proposal for DCR Pathway

The letter sent to the Louis DePasquale, City Manager, dated March 7, 2017 from the Fresh Pond Master Plan Advisory Board was handed out for information purposes.

A lighting RFP was put out to bid and that included environmental considerations. When asked whether the Conservation Commission Order of Conditions included anything on lighting, Jen Letourneau responded that it did not; she stated that she had asked Jim Wilcox, DPW Engineering Director, to review the design including the stormwater calculations and that it included the planting plan. His letter of comment was handed out for informational purposes.

The lighting scope was discussed and it was unclear as to whether it included an ecological analysis to address the habitat study that the Board has requested in January. Doug Brown mentioned that the technology exists to control the lighting; such as direction, intensity and turning them off at any time. Janice Snow and others noted that the most active time for nocturnal animals at the Reservation is just after dusk which is the same time the lights would be turned on to their highest intensity. The LED white light spectrum altered both plant and animal responses. These issues she noted were raised in the Board's letter to the City Manager in January along with other ecological issues, safety issues and the presumed Master Plan conflicts.

Jen also gave an update on the status of the DCR funding and said that Mass DOT has verbally approved/earmarked \$3.5M for the project and that it would likely start sometime in FY18. At best the bid, contract award and mobilization process would bring us to mid-December 2017 to start construction, at the earliest.

Janice Snow mentioned that we should discuss signage at both ends of the greenway that passes through the Pine Forrest.

Item 4: Watershed Manager's Report

DCR Landscape Plan Update: The plant list has been updated to reflect native plants and to follow the Master Plan. Janice Snow asked about changes to the seed mixes; Dave noted they had been changed to match the Fresh Pond Reservation standard. The drainage swale design and capacity was also reviewed.

Drainage and Community Garden Project: The apparent low bidder is Argus Construction and the process is moving forward. Ideally the project would start in the April/May time frame. The Water Department will be working to schedule a public meeting on the project. \$250,000 of CPA money was appropriated to support the Community Garden work and the remainder of the funds were from the Water Department. The basic schedule is that work will continue through 2017 and the final plantings will be in the spring of 2018.

Doug Brown mentioned that the City had purchased the railroad right-of-way extending north of Concord Avenue to Daney Park.

Landscape Maintenance: Vinnie will be working with our landscape contractor to finish all of the miscellaneous work that was never completed from the Glacken Slope, Blacks Nook and Kingsley Park projects. This includes replanting the birches at Kingsley Park and other plants at Blacks Nook. In future projects, most of the maintenance will be done by in-house forces to better manage plantings.

Submitting a Reservation-wide Vegetation Management Plan (VMP) has enabled the Water Department to obtain a permit from the Conservation Commission covering all of vegetation maintenance work at one time. The Water Department will submit any additional permits needed to the MaDEP Office of Watershed for the removal of invasive plants.

Item 5: Update – FY18 Budgeting Master Plan Projects in light of the “drought” Impacts on the capital funding

The Drainage and Community Garden Project has been fully funded (FY18). The Perimeter Road improvements, Kingsley Park Phases 2 and 3, the circulation and access plan and the pine forest restoration have all been moved to beyond FY20.

Based on the Vegetative and Landscape Maintenance Plans we will refocus on maintaining completed projects and invasive species management including Little Fresh Pond and Blacks Nook.

Item 6: Fresh Pond Day Planning – May 20, 2017

Citizen Board members were asked to sign-up to volunteer to staff the Advisory Board's information table at Fresh Pond Day. The annual event will be held on May 20, 2017 from 11:00 am to 3:00 pm. Because of the Drainage and Community Garden Project has fenced off last year's site, this year's event will be held in the grassy area of Kingsley Park.

Item 8: Preliminary Agenda for May 18, 2017 Advisory Board Meeting

Annual Golf Course Landscape update; report on Envisioning Alewife Group's work on impact of development on Fresh Pond; 2017/2018 meeting schedule, DCR Greenway update, and other projects.

Item 9: Public Comment: No public comment.

Jim Barton moved and Kathleen Kelly seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting. The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 7:50pm.