

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

Submitted: Sam Corda – March 15, 2018

Advisory Board Members in Attendance:

Janice Snow (Chair), David Kaplan, Jim Barton, Janet Burns, Adam Corbeil, Jennifer Letourneau, Claudia Thompson, Deborah Masterson, Ann Roosevelt and Jamie Porreca

Advisory Board Members Not in Attendance:

Candace Young, Susan Agger, Purvi Patel

Water Department in Attendance:

Sam Corda, Tim MacDonald, Vincent Falcione, Tim Puopolo and Michelle O'Donnell

Others in Attendance:

Taha Jennings (City Manager's Office)
John DiCocco – Belmont Citizens Forum
Martha Stearns - resident

Meeting opened at 6:00 pm

Meeting Minutes: S. Corda

Item 1: Review Agenda

No changes

Item 2: Meeting Minutes

Deborah Masterson moved and Jim Barton seconded the motion for Deborah to copy edit the minutes from September 7, 2017 and resubmit them at the March 2018 meeting. The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

Item 3: New Outreach Coordinator/Ranger – Tim Puopolo

Tim Puopolo was introduced to the Board and gave a brief work biography including his experience working at Minuteman National Park and the Boston Harbor Islands.

Item 4: Presentation on the History and Function of the Cambridge Conservation Commission

Jennifer Letourneau, Cambridge Conservation Commission Director and now also a member of the Engineering Division of DPW explained the Wetlands Protection Act which created local Conservation Commissions, as designated enforcers of the Act. Her slides included photos of methods used to protect wetlands and associated water bodies from run off during construction and can be found through the following link.

<https://www.cambridgema.gov/~media/Files/waterdepartment/freshpondreservation/advisoryboardagendasandminutes/presentationnovember162017.pdf?la=en>

Item 5: Watershed Managers Report

Developing a Sustainable Landscape Management Plan: The Watershed Management group along with our consultants are testing the Cartegraph asset management system (currently used by DPW) as a tool for recording and updating the location and condition of our Reservation

resource data (trees, etc.). They are also reviewing current management practices and identifying opportunities to increase sustainability (e.g. adopting electric mowers, on-site composting and reuse, and reducing turf areas).

Updating the Master Plan Plant List: CWD Consultant is reviewing the original plant lists from the 1999 Natural Resource Stewardship Plan Stewardship Plan (that accompanied the Master Plan). Dave Kaplan will be scheduling an Advisory Board Stewardship Committee meeting in a few months to discuss updating the list based on current thinking relating to climate, resiliency and native status.

Drainage and Community Garden Project: The asphalt paving is completed. The path shoulder will be “stabilized aggregate.” The paths inside the community garden will be StaLok®, the same material that has been successfully used at Maher Park Community Gardens. We expect that the project will be completed in late spring and be opened for use in early summer 2018.

Landscape Maintenance: Vinnie Falcione is working on winter preparation by closing the irrigation system, installing plow stakes to direct plows away from green spaces. We are also working to have more parking spaces available for the winter months.

DCR Greenway: The greenway design will include electrical conduit and subsurface pole bases. There is not yet a final set of drawings or a bid schedule for the project.

Janice Snow noted that she and Jim Barton sent a letter to Director of Environmental & Transportation Planning, Susanne Rasmussen critiquing the reports by consultants (Normandeau Associates & Kleinfelder) on the effect of lighting on the Huron pine forest ecology. Their letter included many points raised at the September 7th Advisory Board meeting by Board members opposed to installing light poles and associated infrastructure. The City is planning on developing a response to the Board Letter and is still planning to hold a public meeting on this topic as well.

Black’s Nook Permanent Fencing: Board members agreed to move this item to the next Advisory Board meeting in March.

Stewardship Award: A final call was made for suggesting candidates for this award.

Item 6: Reservation Signage

There was discussion as to the title for the Community Garden sign. Some suggestions were Fresh Pond Parkway Community Garden (original), Bikeway Community Garden, Parkway Wetland Community Garden or Native Restoration Community Garden, Fresh Pond Reservation Community Gardens.

Locations for new area signs were discussed. These included both ends of the Drainage and Community Garden and DCR Greenway Projects. Wording for these signs was also discussed all without any final decisions made. This topic will be further discussed as we move closer to the completion of each specific project.

Item 7: Addressing Priority Forested Areas not yet Restored

The specific areas that we have agreed to work on next are the Huron Pine Forest and the Old Field/Birch Grove.

Item 8: Preliminary Agenda for March 15, 2018 Advisory Board Meeting

Cambridge Public Schools Ecology Education projects at the Reservation, Project status updates, Black's Nook permanent fencing, understanding swale design, Watershed Manager's Report and Fresh Pond Day planning.

Item 10: Public Comment

No comments

Jim Barton moved and Ann Roosevelt seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting. The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 7:55pm.