

March 15, 2018 - Fresh Pond Reservation Master Plan Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

Submitted: Sam Corda – May 17, 2018

Advisory Board Members in Attendance:

Janice Snow (Chair), David Kaplan, Jim Barton, Janet Burns, Adam Corbeil, Jennifer Letourneau, Deborah Masterson, Purvi Patel, Candice Young, and Jamie Porreca

Advisory Board Members Not in Attendance:

Susan Agger, Claudia Thompson, Ann Roosevelt

Water Department in Attendance:

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

Others in Attendance:

Taha Jennings (City Manager's Office)
Elizabeth Wylde – Friends of Fresh Pond

Meeting opened at 6:05 pm

Meeting Minutes: S. Corda

Item 1: Review Agenda

Jim Wilcox, DPW, could not attend to discuss “Wetland Swale Design Standards”

Item 2: Meeting Minutes

Deborah Masterson moved and Candice Young seconded the motion to approve the minutes from September 7, 2017 as amended. The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

Deborah Masterson moved and Janet Burns seconded the motion to approve the minutes from the November 16, 2017 as amended. The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

Item 3: Wetland Swale Design Standards

Jen Letourneau gave a brief overview of the wetland swale design standards. The basic idea is to manage stormwater by detaining and cleaning it in a vegetated system that allows nitrogen and phosphorous to drop out and then conveying it to an outfall. Vegetated swales detain the water longer, which enhances the cleaning before discharge.

The DCR Greenway swale has been designed for a 2-year storm, treating the first flush of a storm event and sized to maximize available space. This swale design consists of a series of check dams. The pines forest swales planted with native wetland herbaceous plants will connect via an existing pipe to the Weir meadow wetland. The parkway swales are grass lined and will discharge to the alewife storm water system.

The Drainage and Community Garden Project storm water design has a multi-level approach to protect (including constructed wetlands with overflow pipes) Fresh Pond.

The Climate Change Vulnerability Model has been updated for 2030 and 2070 and the revised prediction says that Fresh Pond based on Master Plan landscape improvements and other drainage requirements is better able to withstand basin flooding than in the past. Also, the Huron Avenue A and B Stormwater Improvement Projects will reduce the volume of polluted water in

the basin and are expected reduce the stormwater flow near the pond than calculated prior to the project completion.

The stormwater standards for the upcountry watershed are based on the Wetland Protection Act and the most recent DEP Stormwater Standards.

Item 4: Watershed Managers Report

Drainage and Community Garden Project: The remaining work includes fencing, garden soil submittal, StaLok® paving (once the temperature rises), jogging shoulder, benches and replacing any damaged plants. We expect that the project will be completed in June 2018.

Landscape Maintenance: Vinnie Falcione is working on tree pruning and finishing up some storm damage efforts. He said the Reservation and the City overall in part from preventative maintenance had minimal tree damage from the March storms compared to other municipalities.

DCR Greenway: The Greenway design documents are now available. The bid opening is scheduled for March 20, 2018 and the estimated bid value is \$3,128,000. The City is still planning on setting up a temporary lighting demonstration at Danehy Park to reflect the proposed shielded lighting design for the DCR pathway. A public meeting is to follow the lighting demonstration.

Janice Snow noted the Board had never been asked to review any lighting design and asked if an Advisory Board review was planned.

Item 5: Revising Stewardship Plant List – meeting report

Dave Kaplan noted that he, Vinnie and a Board committee were reviewing a draft revision of the 1999 Stewardship Plant List with our consultants from Chester Engineering for additions and subtractions. The changes will be scientifically-based and focused on native species in natural plant communities in a specific ecosystem while still celebrating plantings aesthetic qualities. Selections should have a New England Character and follow standardized methodology for future changes. The DCR final plant list specification should be reviewed for compliance as well.

Taha Jennings suggested that the Board copy David Lefcourt, the City Arborist, and Gary Chan, CDD Planner with the information with possible input to the review and updating process. The next meeting was scheduled for March 28th at the CWD.

Dave Kaplan sent out the plant list with additional columns (8 characters ea.) to maintain, update and comment on plant conditions and characteristics. He noted that this is not a simple task. It was also suggested that the spreadsheet list in addition to color coding have an alphabetical code with 4 designations to distinguish categories on black and white copies of the chart.

Item 6: Fresh Pond Day Planning – June 9th

The event will run from 11:00 am to 3:00pm with setup starting at 10:00 am. The main location will be near the Drainage and Community Garden project. The Advisory Board asked that it be next to, as usual, Maynard Ecology Center, but also be grouped with other Reservation landscape organizations including Friends of Fresh Pond, ConCom and Chester Engineering. The Advisory Board asked the Water Department to look for a previously used fold-up-display board, with restoration photos and Olmstead drawings and suggest strategies to hold down signs in

windy conditions. A canopy or tent to help shade sun-sensitive volunteers would also be helpful. We will discuss the day in more detail at the May meeting.

Item 7: Volunteer Projects Update

Ranger Tim Puopolo reported that the volunteer program will start in April on Monday evenings, Tuesdays and Thursdays and will involve education and science. In May the program will go full volume with the Friends of Fresh Pond helping to build a forest and meadow. Tim has mapped an area about 300' in length for the group to plant trees and various grasses.

Item 8: FY19 Budgeting Master Plan Projects Update

The highest priority studies are the Pine Forest and Blacks Nook. Blacks Nook assessment will start in the 2019 growing season (FY19). The review will include the 1985 feasibility study and other data and studies, and look at dredging and other options to improve in-pond water quality and maintain the Nook long-term as an open water resource. In FY20 we will examine the Pine Forest and what options we have to restore along with methodologies to do so.

The FY21 and beyond projects will include Kingsley Park Phases 2 and 3, Circulation and Access planning, Pine Forest Restoration and Perimeter Road improvements.

Item 9: Preliminary Agenda for May 17, 2018 Advisory Board Meeting

Volunteer Program, Golf Course Landscape Report, Maynard Ecology Center Report, Black's Nook fencing, swale design, Fresh Pond Day planning and 2018-19 meeting schedule.

Item 10: Public Comment

It was asked how we could get an emergency call box located at Lusitania Meadow? It was mentioned that 14 new bird boxes have been located around Fresh Pond Reservation. Elizabeth Wylde noted that tadpoles were introduced three years ago in Blacks Nook. In year 1 there were no eggs; in year 2 some eggs; in this year 3 she is hoping for more and for year 4 as well.

Sam stated that we need to fill the vacant position, formerly held by Doug Brown, on the Fresh Pond Master Plan Advisory Board. Janice noted that we are lacking a required member from the Committee on Public Planting and also recommended considering a spot for a member of Friends of Fresh Pond.

Deb Masterson moved and Jim Barton seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting. The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 7:45pm.