

March 21, 2019 - Fresh Pond Reservation Master Plan Advisory Board Minutes

Submitted: Sam Corda – May 16, 2019

Advisory Board Members in Attendance:

Janice Snow (Chair), David Kaplan, Janet Burns, Deborah Masterson, Adam Corbeil, Jennifer Letourneau, Candace Young, Sophia Emperador, Ann Roosevelt, Claudia Thompson and Susan Agger

Advisory Board Members Not in Attendance:

Jim Barton, David Lyons, and Jamie Porreca

Water Department in Attendance:

Sam Corda, Jamie O'Connell and Vincent Falcione

Others in Attendance:

Elizabeth Wylde (volunteer)

Meeting opened at 6:05 pm

Meeting Minutes: S. Corda

Item 1: Review Agenda

No changes

Item 2: Meeting Minutes

Candace Young moved, and Deborah Masterson seconded the motion to approve the minutes from the November 15, 2018 meeting as amended (typographical error). The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

Item 3: Thanking Tim MacDonald

Discussed Tim's role and incredible contributions to the Water Department.

Item 4: Cambridge Public Schools Ecology Education Projects at the Reservation

Susan Agger discussed the Cambridge Public Schools (CPS) science curriculum, the Maynard Ecology Center and field investigations at the Fresh Pond Reservation. She discussed the second, third, fourth and fifth graders use of Fresh Pond and the Alewife Storm Water Wetland and how these fit into the science curriculum. Please see attached field studies sheet.

Item 5: Friends of Fresh Pond Report on Woodland Habitat Restoration Project

Elizabeth Wylde gave a presentation on the *Woodland Habitat Restoration Project* which is the result of many volunteers' tireless efforts over many years. This project has created and maintained native herbaceous plant and wildlife habitats in the triangle east of Lusitania Meadow. Elizabeth has created a native plant nursery in her backyard and transplanted the seedlings to the Reservation plot. Her presentation can be viewed at

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

Item 6: Master Plant List 2019-2020 Update

Dave distributed and the Board Planting Committee discussed the final version of the Master Plan Plant List. The Plant list will be posted on the Water Department web and the link will be sent to all.

Ann Roosevelt moved, and Candace Young seconded the motion to accept the updated plant list. The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

Item 7: Watershed Managers Report

Landscape Maintenance Contract: Within the new contract we have stipulated the use of more electric/battery powered equipment (e.g. lawn mowers, trimmers and leaf blowers). The department has purchased a 52" battery powered riding lawn mower.

We will be piloting a "steamer" to manage poison ivy and potentially other weeds/invasives. This is a device that uses only super-heated steam.

Landscaper Design Services Contract: The landscaper design services contract is out to bid using the Request for Qualifications process. We expect this process to be completed in June.

The Tree Moratorium Ordinance recently voted by the City Council has affected the process for removing trees at the Reservation including removing invasive trees from native ecosystem restoration areas. Vinnie must now fill out a permit for permission to remove trees above 8" dia., but he does not anticipate any problems in managing the Reservation.

Item 8: Update on Pine Forest Lighting Issues

The December 10, 2018 letter sent by Janice Snow, Louise Weed and Jim Barton to Suzanne Rasmussen and others, opposing artificial lighting in the Reservation pine forest, was discussed. Suzanne has sent a response stating that the public process relating to lighting that DCR Greenway would occur in the Fall of 2019. Janice noted that the response did not address any of the other issues raised in the December 10th letter or a September 2018 letter. Jen Letourneau has been told that CCD Transportation manager Bill Deignan, was setting up a public process to debate lighting the DCR Greenway in the Fall of 2019.

Board members agreed once again that lighting the pine forest was not appropriate and light fixtures should not be installed. It was also noted that the Water Board was in the process of writing a letter to the City Manager on this topic as well.

Item 9: Proposed Naming Recommendations for Completed Drainage/Community Garden Project Area

There have been many suggestions for naming the recently completed Drainage and Community Garden Project area. During this meeting each participant voiced their preferred "name" with the following being the top contenders:

a) *Green Wave*; b) *Filter Pass*; c) *Parkway Pass*; d) *Floral Filter*; e) *Parkway Community Garden*; f) *Harrington Pass*; and g) *Eastern Gateway*

Item 10: FY20, 21 and 22 Budgeting Master Plan Projects Update

Black's Nook fencing replacement is in progress. The Black's Nook in-pond assessment should begin soon followed by an implementation strategy and project completed by late 2021.

Pine Forest study - phase 1 will be to establish the existing conditions. This natural resource inventory will include habitat and tree identification and ecosystem conditions for the entire forest. A Perimeter Road and access path review will also be done followed later by paving.

Glacken Field Project: DPW is in the planning stages for renovating the Glacken athletic and playground areas. The Water Department is reviewing plans and coordinating on any issues related to protecting the natural areas of the Reservation, including protection of and access to Glacken Slope.

Item 11: Fresh Pond Day Planning

Fresh Pond Day is June 15th, 11-3. We will discuss this further at our May meeting. Volunteers please e-mail Janice to sign-up and we need to discuss tables and set-up.

Item 12: Preliminary Agenda for May 16, 2019 Advisory Board Meeting

FY20 Schedule; Select recommended names for "Drainage and Community Garden" area; Watershed Manager Report and Project Updates; Golf Course Annual Report

Item 13: Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Ann Roosevelt moved, and Candace Young seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting. The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 8:09pm.