



City of Cambridge Conservation Commission

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Public Meeting – Monday, August 17, 2020 at 7:00 PM 147 Hampshire Street, Main Conference Room MEETING MINUTES

The following meeting minutes were taken by Tracy Dwyer and are respectfully submitted.

Present Commission Members: Jennifer Letourneau (Director), Purvi Patel (Chair), David Lyons (Vice Chair), Erum Sattar, Elyse Magnotto-Cleary, Kathryn Hess,

Absent Commission Members: Kaki Martin, Ted Pickering

Attendees: Tracy Dwyer, Cambridge Public Works; James Wilcox, Cambridge Public Works; Amy Ball, Horsley Witten Group, Inc.; Roch LaRochelle, HDR, Inc.; Santos Carrasquillo

David Lyons opened the meeting.

7:00 – Notice of Intent

CAM005 Outfall Improvements – Charles River

James Wilcox from the Cambridge Public Works Department gave a brief overview of the project. He explained that CAM 005 is a City combined sewer overflow, permitted by the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and has a variance from the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). The regulator which is located at Mt Auburn Street and Lowell Street which has an outfall pipe which drains into the Charles River. The outfall pipe is located between the Mt Auburn Hospital and 1010 Memorial Drive residence. This acts as a relief valve when the City's and MWRA's systems at full capacity this will overflow into the Charles River. The outfall pipe is a fifty-four-inch (54") concrete pipe used to protect properties from flooding. The project would include a new manhole in the pipe for cleaning, maintenance inspections and flow metering. The City has witness sediment build up in the pipe over time and would like to the access for routine maintenance so it's running a full capacity.

Amy Ball from Horsely Witten explained the Notice of Intent would be for the new manhole to be built and that an existing manhole does exist but that is now located under a private retaining wall, and not accessible. The work would be done within the buffer zone in the grassy area along the sidewalk and in the sidewalk area itself. Amy explained there is a twenty-five-foot (25') river front area and a one hundred-foot (100') buffer zone but that work would take place on the far side of the road opposite the river. Roch LaRochelle from HDR, Inc. stated the City is

proposing a traffic management plan for the pedestrian traffic, the City would be getting a DCR permit for the work. Pedestrian traffic would be interrupted at the time when the crane places the structure otherwise pedestrian traffic will be allowed at all time during construction. There will be no work in Memorial Drive itself, curb will stay in place. Grassy areas will be reseeded, and sidewalk restored.

Jim Wilcox stated that this submission tonight was just for the construction of the manhole, the City would be back with a plan for cleaning of the pipe once they reviewed operations with the contractor. He also stated that STV just reviewed this project for the City and they have no involvement in the project.

David Lyons asked about the maintenance of the manhole. Jim stated that they will be back to the commission for approval of an O and M plan. Amy Ball clarified the form number 310, 3535 D which requires no O & M plan.

Jennifer Letourneau read through STV's comments for the submission. Jennifer stated that erosion and sediment controls and whether best management practices need to be implemented. Jim stated that sewer will not be exposed, just broken out to install the manhole.

Amy addressed the tree protection and she said they can work with the City and DCR regarding tree protection. Roch also stated that they would add in tree protection for the tree adjacent to the project. Jim stated that they could do some air spading and tree protection.

Roch explained that this project would be performed by one of the City's on-call contractors. He said the crane location can be adjusted on the plans it will be located beside the wall. Pedestrian access will be interrupted during crane operations to set the structure and said that the crane would be there for a short amount of time. The contractor would restore the area loam and seed areas and will modify on the plans. Dewatering would take place and the contractor will be submitting a Dewatering Permit to be approved by DPW. Soils would be trucked off site as there is not much space for stockpiles. Loading of stockpiles onto the truck would be behind the jersey barriers.

Jim stated that Mattuchio the City's contractor that would be performing the work, stockpile off site, test and send to an unlined landfill in MA.

Jennifer asked them to review form and plans for the sidewalk closure for the crane.

Amy said that sheet C7 not requiring stormwater, check off #3.

Jennifer stated they would need to review erosion and sediment controls on site. They should provide more details and check on catch basins.

Jennifer asked the commission if they would like to vote on a motion to continue the hearing?

Jennifer asked if the commission members had questions?

Kathryn Hess asked that Roch explain what a short-term project means? Roch stated that the contractor would finish the project in five (5) days, which would not include the restoration of the grass or sidewalk. Jim stated he felt confident that the contractor would be completely out of the site in two weeks with restoration.

She also asked about how weather dependent this work is? Jim said if it's a significant rain storm the pipe will fill with water but if it's a light rain the contractor would be able to continue work.

David asked how long the project was in the works? Jim stated that it's been about two years they have been monitoring the CSO regulator for a period of time and the pipe keeps getting silted up, but they were also coordinating this with the Willard Street outfall pipe project.

Purvi Patel had no questions but would like to continue the hearing.

Elysse Magnotto-Cleary had no questions.

Erum Sattar stated that in 2016 there was exploratory work done and wanted to know how it's been managed since then? How did the wall wind up on the manhole? Would the seeded areas be roped off for the grass to be allowed time to grow? If the existing manhole is being destroyed how is it being disposed of?

Jim took on these questions. Since 2016 the sediment has slowly built up over time and they want to restore the capacity back in the pipe, no flooding has occurred in the area. Manhole was buried under wall back in the 1960's when the building was built, at that time there was poor planning City did know about it. Also, there is a pipe located under the parking garage they thought about putting a new manhole in the garage, but it never happened. The existing manhole will be covered with steel plate and backfilled, destroying it would undermine the wall. The City's contractor would hire a landscaper to hydroseed the areas effected by construction. It would be the contractor's responsibility to keep the areas watered till the grass is established.

Jennifer stated the missing information for the applicants to work on.

Corrections to forms, Erosion and Sediment controls, tree protection to include air spading, construction- sidewalk access, pedestrian traffic and truck traffic.

7:54 - The commission unanimously agreed to continue this hearing. The next hearing will take place Monday, August 31st at 7:00 pm. Jennifer asked that the applicant have all missing information submitted by Wednesday, August 26th.

7:55 – Administrative Topic

Meeting Minutes from July 20, 2020 were approved.

The next meeting will be a special meeting August 31, 2020 via Zoom.

7:57 – Meeting Adjourned