

Brookline Conservation Commission Meeting
Tuesday, July 19, 2016 7:00 PM
Town Hall, School Committee Room

Commissioners Present: Matthew Garvey (Acting Chair), Werner Lohe, Gail Fenton, Deborah Myers

Commissioners Absent: Marcus Quigley, Roberta Schnoor, Pallavi Kalia Mande, Marian Lazar, Pamela Harvey

Staff Present: Tom Brady, Conservation Administrator, Brittany Bonney, Conservation Assistant

Guests Present: See attached.

AGENDA REVIEW/MINUTES

W. Lohe moved to approve the minutes from 6/7/16. D. Myers seconded. All in favor.

REQUEST FOR DETERMINATION OF APPLICABILITY UNDER THE WETLANDS PROTECTION ACT AND BROOKLINE WETLANDS BYLAW FOR 101 FERNWOOD ROAD, SUBMITTED BY MARY TRUDEAU

M. Garvey opened the public hearing. M. Trudeau explained that Adam and Rita Weiner are the current owners of the 101 Fernwood Road property. She discussed the proposed changes that they would like to make at their property, which would be inside the buffer zone.

M. Trudeau submitted an amended description of work. She explained that this description reflects the owners' decision to no longer put cobblestone down around the security gate. They won't be making any changes to the existing gate. The modified description of work does not include work on the gate.

T. Brady said he has reviewed the plans in the field with M. Trudeau and believes the project description is accurate.

G. Fenton asked about the "ditch" as represented on the plan. M. Trudeau said she believes the Commission defines it as an intermittent stream.

The Commission agreed that they have enough information to make an informed decision.

W. Lohe moved to close the hearing. D. Myers seconded. All in favor.

OPEN SPACE PLAN UPDATE

- W. Lohe gave an update on last night's Open Space Plan Committee meeting. The groups are finishing their drafts.

MUDDY RIVER UPDATE

- T. Brady said that the structures have all been removed except for the last flood control structure which will be taken out after all dredging is complete.
- There is a meeting coming up with MEPA on the project as a whole.
- The opening celebration/ribbon cutting will likely be this fall.

STAFF UPDATE

- T. Brady noted that the Commission has received communication via e-mail regarding the geese and goose control fence at Leverett Pond in Olmsted Park. He asked if anyone in the audience would like to speak on that.
- Chris Ferrell, 77 Pond Ave, explained his concern about the fence on the Brookline side of the Pond. He said he believes the same number of geese reside in Brookline as always so doesn't understand why the fence was put up to begin with. The fence doesn't seem to deter the geese from entering the park. They try to go through the fence and end up injuring themselves. He believes the fence is a trapping hazard. There is also an issue with off-leash dogs in the park which chase the geese into the fence and cause injury.
- T. Brady explained that the Town does hold a permit through MA Fish and Wildlife for egg addling. This permit encourages and allows Towns to take appropriate measures against the geese such as placing barriers, such as the fence, to encourage them to reside elsewhere.
- Victoria, 77 Pond Ave, presented the Commission photos she took of injured geese and other waterfowl.
- W. Lohe noted the drastic difference in how dense of a community Brookline has become. He explained that in any densely populated area, there are challenges such as this. He said that when people feed geese, it changes their behavioral patterns and end up forcing competition for space between humans and animals.
- C. Ferrell suggested T. Brady speak with Tom French of NHESP in regards to the fence being a safe method. T. Brady said as the permit holder with the Town, he would be happy to speak with him.
- **Issuance of a Negative Determination for 101 Fernwood Road**
D. Myers moved to issue a Negative 3 Determination for 101 Fernwood Road. M. Garvey seconded. All in favor.
- T. Brady met with the Engineering Division and M. Quigley to look over draft versions of the back landfill project. The Engineering Division will be coming to the Commission in the fall.
- We will also be hearing from representatives of the new elementary school project for work being proposed at the Baker School site.
- G. Fenton announced that she will not be renewing her term with the Commission.

W. Lohe moved to adjourn. D. Myers seconded. All in favor.

Documents/Exhibits Used at the Meeting:

- Meeting agenda
- Draft minutes from 6/7/16
- RDA for 101 Fernwood Road

Submitted by B. Bonney.