

Brookline Conservation Commission Meeting
Tuesday, January 15, 2019, 7:00 PM
Room 111, Town Hall

Commissioners Present: Marcus Quigley, Werner Lohe, Roberta Schnoor, Benjamin Wish, Pamela Harvey

Commissioners Absent: Pallavi Kalia Mande, Deborah Myers, Marian Lazar (Associate)

Staff Present: Tom Brady (Conservation Administrator), Katie Weatherseed (Conservation Assistant)

Guests: See attached.

AGENDA REVIEW/MINUTES

M. Quigley called the meeting to order.

P. Harvey made a motion to approve the minutes from November 20, 2018. W. Lohe seconded. All in favor.

CONTINUED PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE NOTICE OF INTENT FOR 21 AND 101 INDEPENDENCE DRIVE (HANCOCK VILLAGE), FOR THE IMPROVEMENT AND REPLACEMENT OF EXISTING UTILITIES AND ASSOCIATED LANDSCAPE RESTORATION, SUBMITTED BY STANTEC PLANNING AND LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE P.C., ON BEHALF OF THEIR CLIENT, JOE LAURANO

Joe Geller, of Stantec, said he was attending the meeting on behalf of Frank Holmes, who recently had a death in his family. He stated that he is waiting for the Commission's decision on the determination of the stream. T. Brady stated that Staff met with Chestnut Hill Realty and a consultant team to discuss perspectives on whether the reach of stream behind the school is intermittent or perennial. T. Brady noted the applicant's belief that the stream is intermittent.

M. Quigley asked if the Commission had questions. P. Harvey shared passages from the Wetland Protection Act MGL 131, s.40 and the Brookline Wetland By-Law Section 1.6 regarding exemptions and exceptions. M. Quigley opened the hearing to comments from the public. There were no public comments.

W. Lohe moved to close the hearing. P. Harvey seconded. All in favor.

PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE NOTICE OF INTENT FOR THE BROOKLINE RESERVOIR, FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF AN AQUATIC VEGETATION MANAGEMENT PROGRAM, SUBMITTED BY SOLITUDE LAKE MANAGEMENT, ON BEHALF OF THEIR CLIENT, THE TOWN OF BROOKLINE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

Matt Salem, Permit Coordinator and GIS Specialist for Solitude Lake Management, introduced himself. M. Salem gave a brief overview of Solitude Lake Management's history, the type of work they do, and described several of their projects. He stated that Solitude Lake Management was reached out to by the Town of Brookline to do a report on aquatic vegetation within the Brookline Reservoir, which they completed in September, 2018. The report documented dense growths of Eurasian watermilfoil, an invasive species. Quillwort and Stonewort were also noted in the survey, but not in significant densities. M. Salem stated that the proposal is for regular management of the waterbody. Fluridone (trade name: Sonar), a systemic herbicide which kills the roots of vegetation, providing multi-year control, is proposed. Also proposed is Diquat (trade name: Reward), a contact herbicide, which is used following the initial treatment of the systemic herbicide. Lastly, the proposal includes the use of florypyrauxifen-benzyl (trade name: ProcellaCOR EC), a system herbicide, and copper-based algaecides. M. Salem described the life cycle of Eurasian watermilfoil and stated that the proposed herbicides would be introduced early in the season to align with their growing period, and added that the proposed products would be applied at low concentrations to avoid any impact to native vegetation. After the dense stands of vegetation are removed, algal blooms tend to occur, and thus copper-based algaecides are suggested to prevent cyanobacteria from reaching dangerous levels.

M. Salem described the alternatives considered, including bottom weed barriers, harvesting, biological controls, sediment excavation and dredging, and no action. M. Salem confirmed that all the proposed products are registered with the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources and the EPA. He stated that the proposed project will also address multiple interests of the Wetlands Protection Act, such as protection of public and private water supply, protection of groundwater supply, flood control and storm damage prevention, prevention of pollution, etc. M. Salem stated that all of the applicators are licensed, and that a site specific license to apply chemicals will be filed with the Massachusetts DEP, Office of Watershed Management. He added that this type of project is highly regulated and has a great deal of oversight. M. Salem then asked if the Commission had any questions.

B. Wish asked why Solitude Lake Management is considering other herbicides if Sonar is an effective form of treatment. M. Salem replied that there is no magic solution and there will be regrowth the following year. He added that eradication is extremely difficult and controlling the population is much more achievable.

P. Harvey inquired about the signage that is posted when the work is being completed. M. Salem replied that Solitude Lake puts up orange posters with information regarding the project, including a one-day restriction of contact activities. He added that he can display the DEP file number on the posters.

P. Harvey confirmed with Tom Brady that the Brookline Reservoir is no longer a potential source for drinking water. M. Salem stated that Fluridone can be used in drinking water supplies to a certain level, and has been shown not to affect fish.

R. Schnoor asked about M. Salem's experience treating ponds with Eurasian watermilfoil. M. Salem responded that through regular management, the root crowns can be impacted so significantly that alternate year management can be utilized. R. Schnoor asked about the suspected cause of the Eurasian watermilfoil. T. Brady stated he suspected waterfowl.

T. Brady stated that repeat treatments at Larz Anderson Park have resulted in less frequent treatments being necessary. He continued that while he anticipates the Eurasian watermilfoil will always be present in the waterbody, with a regimented monitoring program, the areas of concern should get smaller.

M. Quigley asked for M. Salem to elaborate on why peroxide is proposed as a management tool. M. Salem responded that peroxides are highly effective on cyanobacteria at low doses. M. Quigley stated that the lake is stocked with trout and asked if the populations might be affected by any of the proposed treatments. M. Salem responded that when the EPA does their review, they will find the lethal concentrations for those populations. He suggested that peroxide-based algaecides be the preferred treatments as compared to copper algaecides.

M. Salem described what GEIR is – a comprehensive document that includes all possible tools for lake vegetation management. T. Brady added that the practices and principles proposed are in alignment with the management regulations described in the GEIR.

M. Quigley stated that he believes the Town should strengthen their policies regarding stormwater management to protect the water from being loaded with nutrients.

Jared Duval introduced himself from the Engineering Division of the Town of Brookline as the Project Manager.

M. Quigley asked for any additional comments from the public. No one had any further comments.

P. Harvey made a motion to close the hearing. R. Schnoor seconded. All in favor.

**PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE NOTICE OF INTENT FOR SARGENT POND,
FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF AN AQUATIC MANAGEMENT
PROGRAM, SUBMITTED BY SOLITUDE LAKE MANAGEMENT, ON
BEHALF OF THEIR CLIENT, SARGENT ROAD TRUST**

M. Salem stated that Sargent Road Trust asked for Solitude Lake Management to install aerators in Sargent Pond to increase water circulation within the waterbody. He stated that the Trust wanted to manage invasive vegetation and algae growth within the 3-acre pond. When installing aerators, Solitude Lake Management observed that 70% of the pond was growing curly-leaf pondweed. They also noted several beneficial native species present within the pond. Sargent Road Trust is requesting approval of a multi-year

aquatic management program consisting of regular monitoring of the waterbody. Solitude Lake Management would be on site frequently throughout the growing season (April-Sept) and would document algae and vegetation growth. M. Salem stated that Solitude Lake Management is seeking to manage any invasive and problematic algae growth before it gets to a scale that would require significant treatment. The applicant is seeking to use minimal product per application, but treat frequently. M. Salem stated that curly-leaf pondweed is susceptible to most products on the market. He added that should native vegetation (such as duckweed or water lilies) outcompete the curly-leaf pondweed and take over the pond, Solitude Lake Management is requesting the use of Imazamox and Glyphosate as target treatments for specific areas. M. Salem added that Solitude Lake Management is not looking to eradicate any species, but rather is looking to manage them. He added that the proposed management strategies are approved under the GEIR.

M. Salem mentioned the considered alternatives to the proposed project: bottom weed barriers and harvesting, neither of which is recommended.

He concluded by saying that the applicant wants to maintain the gains made by the dredging project that's just taken place. He asked if the Commission has any questions.

P. Harvey commented that she thought part of the purpose for the dredging project was to get rid of invasive vegetation, so she is surprised there is so much invasive vegetation still present.

M. Salem stated that Solitude Lake Management does not recommend dredging for vegetation management and that he believes that other strategies work better. Solitude Lake Management was brought in at the end of the project.

W. Lohe asked if M. Salem believes the infestation is a result of the recent dredging and whether he believes aeration will help. M. Salem responded that he does not believe aeration will have much impact on vegetation in pond. T. Brady added that three aerators were approved to be installed.

R. Schnoor stated that the results of the last project have not yet become clear.

T. Brady stated that he is still waiting for the water levels to return to their original conditions. He added that there is currently some disapproval among the Trust regarding the plantings near the Pond. T. Brady stated that he concurs with the Commission's hesitation – the dredging project has only just taken place and the Commission doesn't know how this infestation will change over time. Without monitoring the pond in its most recent reconfiguration, he is not sure if this treatment will be necessary.

P. Harvey discussed the importance of watershed management. M. Salem stated that the presence of nutrients in the water column shouldn't affect vegetation, but does affect algae growth. T. Brady stated that after dredging the Pond, it was left open for a long time without any water in it. He stated that he feels it is important monitor the Pond and see what happens with the newly installed aeration mats. He suggested possibly

requesting quarterly monitoring so the Commission can see how the resource is performing and functioning in its new configuration and do a better assessment of treatments moving forward.

P. Harvey mentioned that the diagrams provided by the Applicant only show the coverage of the curly-leaf pondweed, not the proposed treatment areas.

M. Salem discussed the life cycle of curly-leaf pondweed. He then stated that he'd be open to a condition of a year of monitoring to see how the waterbody functions now that the dredging work is complete.

W. Lohe asked if there is a way to quantify the occurrence of curly-leaf pondweed, to determine how much it will grow/spread over time.

T. Brady suggested a monitoring program requiring quarterly written updates to the Commission with treatment recommendations.

R. Schnoor communicated her surprise at the extent of the proposed treatments. M. Salem replied that he does not intend to use all the products at once. He stated that he cannot accurately anticipate how the infestation will change over the next five years, and would like to treat using an IPM approach with the least amount of product and best technique.

M. Quigley asked how often herbicide treatments are used on waterbodies that have recently been dredged.

M. Salem requested a 4-week continuance so that he may speak with his client about the options presented.

P. Harvey made a motion to continue the hearing to February 26th at 7:05 PM. R. Schnoor seconded. All in favor.

OPEN SPACE PLAN UPDATE

T. Brady had no updates.

MUDDY RIVER REVIEW

T. Brady had no updates.

STAFF UPDATE

- **Request to extend Order of Conditions for DEP File No. 120-163, BWB 16-07, by The Country Club**

Dave Johnson introduced himself as the Director of Grounds for The Country Club. Scott Fisher, Environmental Consultant with SWCA, was also present.

S. Fisher stated that The Country Club received an OOC for Primrose Pond and the Skate Ponds in 2017. He stated that The Country Club hopes to dredge the ponds in 2022, but

would like to continue managing the ponds with herbicides and algaecides in the interim. He stated that The Country Club plans to use semi-monthly copper-based algaecide treatments to manage algal blooms, primarily in Primrose Pond which is subject to significant nutrient loading following rain fall events. He added that it is believed that there is an unidentified cross-connection with a sewer pipe. The Country Club would also like to use one annual herbicide treatment in the Skate Pond. The Country Club would like to extend the Order through 2022. They are not looking to modify or adjust the frequency or types of algaecides and herbicides used. S. Fisher added that The Country Club will continue to monitor the water quality, which will help to determine the pre-dredge water quality.

T. Brady stated that he concurs that there is a cross-connection with a sewer line and that he and The Country Club are still trying to identify the exact source. He stated that he has had good communication from The Country Club so far and that he is on site often.

P. Harvey made a motion to extend the Order of Conditions for three years, to February 21, 2022. B. Wish seconded. All in favor.

- **Order of Conditions for Hancock Village**

The Commission discussed the possibility of whether the project is exempt under the Massachusetts Wetland Protection Act and the Brookline Wetland By-Law, due to the scope and extent of the work, namely the replacement of/improvements to existing underground utilities.

- **Potential Acquisition of Newbury College Land**

M. Quigley stated that the Town is thinking about acquiring Newbury College and it is believed that it would be an important acquisition in regards to open space. He commented that he believes it has open space elements. W. Lohe commented on the Town's need for additional playing fields. M. Quigley agreed that this plot of land could help the Town in reaching their open space per capita requirement. He concluded that the Commission should keep it in mind, and could consider writing a letter in the future.

ADJOURN

P. Harvey made a motion to adjourn. W. Lohe seconded. All in favor.

Minutes prepared by Katie Weatherseed