

**Brookline Conservation Commission Meeting
Tuesday, February 26, 2019, 7:00 PM
Room 111, Town Hall**

Commissioners Present: Marcus Quigley (Chair), Roberta Schnoor, Benjamin Wish, Pamela Harvey, Werner Lohe, Marian Lazar (Associate)

Commissioners Absent: Deborah Myers, Pallavi Kalia Mande

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

Guests: See attached.

AGENDA REVIEW/MINUTES

M. Quigley called the meeting to order and asked if there were any suggested amendments to the Agenda. No one had any suggested amendments. P. Harvey and R. Schnoor suggested two minor revisions to the minutes from February 5, 2019.

*R. Schnoor made a motion to approve the minutes from February 5, 2019 as amended.
W. Lohe seconded. All in favor.*

**CONTINUED PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE NOTICE OF INTENT FOR
SARGENT POND, DEP FILE NO. 120-176, BWB 18-05, FOR THE
IMPLEMENTATION OF AN AQUATIC MANAGEMENT PROGRAM,
SUBMITTED BY SOLITUDE LAKE MANAGEMENT, ON BEHALF OF THEIR
CLIENT, SARGENT ROAD TRUST**

Matt Salem, of Solitude Lake Management, greeted the Commission. He stated that he had approached the Applicant to see if they would consider limiting the proposed scope of the management program to treating existing invasive species, as opposed to potential nuisance vegetation. The newly proposed scope includes the application of Diquat to treat existing curly-leaf pondweed and copper-based algaecides. Additionally included in the revised proposal is the plan to complete vegetation surveys documenting the vegetation assemblage that reemerges in the current post-dredge condition. These surveys would take place in the early season (April-May), in mid-summer (June-July), and at the end of the growing season to identify the changes of the vegetation assemblage over the growing season. Solitude Lake Management will also assess water quality and the phytoplankton community. M. Salem asked if the Commission had any questions.

R. Schnoor and T. Brady expressed their interest at the prospect of quarterly reporting and monitoring of the pond.

P. Harvey enquired when the herbicide treatment will begin. M. Salem replied that they anticipate beginning treatment in May, and explained the growing season of curly-leaf pondweed. P. Harvey asked whether curly-leaf pondweed has been observed in the post-

dredge condition of the pond or if the proposed treatment is preventative. T. Brady stated that there is a significant amount in the pond that has already been observed.

R. Schnoor asked whether curly-leaf pondweed was a major part of the issue in pre-dredge conditions. T. Brady replied that the main issue pre-dredge was the presence of algae and the lack of water movement. He added that he hopes this initial treatment, combined with water movement and aeration, will help.

M. Quigley asked how long the applicant is requesting the Order of Conditions be valid for. M. Salem replied 3 years.

M. Salem continued that the management program as proposed would mean that Solitude Lake Management would be on site once a month to assess conditions and treat as necessary.

R. Schnoor asked if Solitude Lake Management plans on tracking phosphorus. M. Salem replied that they will track both total and dissolved phosphorus. P. Harvey enquired about any potential effects of the proposed products on wood duck populations. M. Salem replied that the proposed doses should not harm wood duck populations.

R. Schnoor made a motion to close the hearing. B. Wish seconded. All in favor.

OPEN SPACE PLAN UPDATE

T. Brady stated that he is still waiting to hear from the MAPC. He will do a presentation for the Select Board once we receive their comments.

MUDDY RIVER REVIEW

T. Brady stated that he has received the 401 Water Quality Certificate for the Muddy River Project Phase 2. Brookline's drafted Order of Conditions was brought before DEP, and although no changes were made, it felt appropriate to re-issue the Order. Boston has issued their Order of Conditions.

STAFF UPDATE

- **Review and issuance of Order of Conditions for Phase 2 of the Muddy River Flood Damage Reduction Project, DEP File No. 120-177, BWB 18-06**

Fran Gerswhin, Chair of the MMOC, was present with Elton Elperin, also affiliated with MMOC. F. Gerswhin stated that she sent K. Weatherseed a letter requesting the addition of three conditions to the drafted Order regarding 1. Ongoing maintenance of created/restored wetland resource areas, 2. Invasive species management, and 3. Stormwater BMPs. The letter was shared with the Commission.

T. Brady agreed that the concerns listed in the letter are valid. He added that the scope of the work in Brookline is limited, and many of these management activities are included in other certificates and permits.

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F. Gershwin stated that she believes it is useful to reiterate these management obligations in this permit, as the Commission has the authority and ability to ensure that the requirements are met. W. Lohe stated his concern with the possibility of contradictions if these conditions were incorporated into the Order.

P. Harvey asked F. Gershwin where the stormwater BMPs would be. F. Gershwin responded that they would be away from Leverett Pond and the watershed.

M. Quigley stated that while he definitely agrees with the importance of these conditions, he feels that with the reiteration of these regulations, there may be a potential for conflict. He thanked F. Gershwin and E. Elperin for the letter and for engaging the Commission in this important conversation.

R. Schnoor made a motion to approve the Order of Conditions. W. Lohe seconded. All in favor.

T. Brady stated that the Town's trees held up well during the most recent storm event. He added that he will be speaking with the office of dam safety tomorrow, February 27th. T. Brady continued that he has been approached by the property owner of the Paine estate to put a fence on the property, some of which is proposed to be located within the Heath Street Conservation Restriction. He suggested that he, P. Harvey and R. Schnoor look through the Conservation Restriction file together so that they can relay the information back to the Commission. T. Brady also stated that he visited Allandale Farm due to flooding issues, and the property owners may seek to dredge the culverts and streams.

T. Brady stated that the restoration of Willow Pond is no longer included in the Muddy River Project. However, the work may be funded as a separate project through the Stormwater Enterprise Fund.

T. Brady finally discussed the process by which other municipalities classify streams as perennial and incorporate it into their local bylaws. The Commission decided to discuss this further at their next meeting. R. Schnoor, M. Quigley, M. Lazar, and P. Harvey stated that they would be particularly willing to take part in this undertaking.

T. Brady stated that on Wednesday, February 27th, he will be holding a meeting with the neighbors of Russett Road to discuss his findings following a tree assessment. He believes 14 trees need to be removed.

ADJOURN

P. Harvey made a motion to adjourn. R. Schnoor seconded. All in favor.

Minutes prepared by Katie Weatherseed