

Brookline Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, March 16, 2021, 7:00 PM
Zoom Virtual Conference

Commissioners Present: Marcus Quigley, Sam Burrington, Roberta Schnoor, Pam Harvey, Werner Lohe, Marian Lazar, Will Corrdin

Commissioners Absent: Pallavi Kalia Mande

Staff Present: Tom Brady (Conservation Administrator), Katie Weatherseed (Conservation Assistant), Alexandra Vecchio (Director of Parks and Open Spaces)

Guests: See attached.

AGENDA REVIEW/MINUTES

M. Quigley opened the meeting. The Commission reviewed the minutes from February 23, 2021.

R. Schnoor made a motion to accept the minutes from February 23, 2021 with a minor modification. W. Corrdin seconded. All in favor.

P. Harvey asked to add a discussion of the Community Preservation Act (CPA) to the next meeting's agenda.

STAFF UPDATE

Alexandra Vecchio, the new Parks and Open Space Director, introduced herself to the Commission. She gave a brief overview of her previous experience, including her time with Mass Audubon and her education. She stated that conservation is a passion of hers and she is particularly interested in the value of parks and open spaces as it relates to the health of ecosystems and people. She noted that she may attend Conservation Commission meetings from time to time, and said that the Commissioners should feel free to reach out to her if she can be of any help to them. M. Quigley stated that the Commission is glad that she could join them this evening and stated that the Commission, too, is here to serve as a resource. P. Harvey and W. Lohe reiterated that they are glad she is with the Town, particularly in light of the background that she has on climate and resiliency. A. Vecchio responded that E. Gallentine is looking for the Department of Public Works to integrate climate action throughout all of the work that they do, and she's looking forward to building on the work that has already been taking place.

MUDDY RIVER UPDATE

Construction:

T. Brady stated that he had a meeting with Charter Environmental. He noted the size of the work area, and noted that site control, ownership and oversight is a big challenge. T. Brady discussed the ongoing work. 14 percent of material has been dredged at this point, and noted that work on area three will soon be completed. He

confirmed that work will be remobilized at Leverett Pond in April. He stated that he met on Thursday with the Project Team and clarified the specific permitting requirements that need to be adhered to.

He stated that the results from Test Area 2 were submitted to DEP, and DEP has responded, citing several concerns. They will be meeting with DEP next week to discuss this in more detail.

Planning:

T. Brady discussed the Water Resources Development Act. He noted some budget constraints and stated that there will continue to be discussions regarding different approaches. P. Harvey and T. Brady discussed potential channels for funding. M. Quigley stated that connections between climate change, flooding and dam operations, and how they impacts the ecological function of the Muddy River itself, could be investigated.

T. Brady stated that he has started to get pricing for the removal of the phragmites that will remain.

STAFF UPDATE (CONT.)

Extension Request for DEP File No. 120-141

T. Brady stated that he has received a three-year Order of Conditions Extension Request for the Larz Anderson Lagoon, DEP File Number 120-141. The Order permits algacide treatments as necessary. T. Brady stated that the frequency of these applications has drastically decreased due to aeration of the lagoon. He added that detritus is removed by hand by the park rangers and seasonal staff.

P. Harvey made a motion to extend the Order of Conditions of DEP File Number 120-141, Larz Anderson Lagoon for three years. R. Schnoor seconded. All in favor.

Request for Certificate of Compliance DEP File No. 120-131, BWB 08-05

T. Brady stated that his office received a request from the Society of the Holy Transfiguration for DEP File No. 120-131, BWB 08-05, 278 Warren Street. He stated that the Order of Conditions was to construct a new sewer line to Warren Street. He added that he has spoken with the Engineering Division and they were on site when the work was completed and have received an as-built plan with elevations. T. Brady added that he has been out to the site and agrees that he believes the work was completed in compliance with the Order of Conditions.

P. Harvey made a motion to issue a Certificate of Compliance for DEP File Number 120-131, Brookline Wetlands Bylaw 08-05, 278 Warren Street. W. Lohe seconded. All in favor.

T. Brady stated that work is proceeding on the Cottage Street project. He stated that the Order of Conditions required the creation of a Conservation Restriction. It was

decided that P. Harvey, R. Schnoor and W. Lohe would review the Conservation Restriction when it is submitted to T. Brady's office.

T. Brady stated that work at 280 Warren Street is starting back up. He stated that he completed a pre-construction inspection with the contractor.

T. Brady said that work at the Brookline Reservoir should begin shortly.

T. Brady noted that the Carlton Street Footbridge project is underway. He stated that erosion and sediment controls will be installed on Monday, and that a Public Meeting is scheduled for March 24th. K. Weatherseed will share the Zoom link with the Commission. He added that the tree removals will be completed per the agreed upon plan.

T. Brady informed the Commission that he anticipates that he will receive a Request for Determination of Applicability from the Water and Sewer Division to add a water main under Hammond Street.

T. Brady informed the Commission that he received a notification of appeal for the MBTA Determination of Applicability. He stated that he and Town Counsel are tracking this hearing and will get a copy of the findings and rulings. He added that if the Commission is in agreement with this approach, he will proceed. M. Quigley stated that he is OK with that approach. P. Harvey abstained.

T. Brady stated that the Parks and Open Space Division should be receiving a permit soon for goose egg addling. He noted that the Town will be looking for another vendor for Border Collie control.

M. Quigley and T. Brady discussed the new FEMA maps. P. Harvey stated that Boston has independently mapped out sea level rise projections and areas at risk of inland flooding. She stated that Brookline may want to consider doing this as well. M. Quigley discussed some interesting new resources available that are not FEMA approved methodologies, but are really interesting. He added that these tools are economical and can be utilized by municipalities as part of planning processes and climate resiliency assessments. T. Brady suggested that the Commission start a dialogue with the Water and Sewer Division.

K. Weatherseed gave an overview of the Urban Forest Climate Resiliency Master Plan. R. Schnoor stated that the Committee met prior to the public hearing to review the draft chapters and recommendations. She stated that there was great attendance and public comment at the most recent forum. She noted the range of opportunities to incorporate tree protection into project review and Town regulations.

R. Schnoor stated that T. Brady will be receiving his MACC Conservation Administrator of the Year award on Saturday, April 10th. K. Weatherseed will send out a calendar invite. R.

Schnoor added that she and P. Harvey have decided to volunteer to spread the word and will draft an article for the TAB to publicize the award.

ADJOURN

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

Minutes prepared by K. Weatherseed