

Brookline Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, April 6, 2021, 7:00 PM
Zoom Virtual Conference

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

Commissioners Absent: None

Staff Present: Tom Brady (Conservation Administrator), Katie Weatherseed (Conservation Assistant), Fred Russell (Water and Sewer Director)

Guests: See attached.

AGENDA REVIEW/MINUTES

M. Quigley opened the meeting. The Commission reviewed the minutes from March 16, 2021.

R. Schnoor made a motion to accept the minutes from March 16, 2021. W. Corrdin seconded. All in favor.

REQUEST FOR DETERMINATION OF APPLICABILITY SUBMITTED BY WESTON & SAMPSON ON BEHALF OF THEIR CLIENT, THE TOWN OF BROOKLINE, FOR PROPOSED WATER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS ON HAMMOND STREET

Fred Russell, Water and Sewer Director for the Town of Brookline, stated that Weston & Sampson had completed a review of redundancy in the water system and had identified a lack of redundancy along Hammond Street. He stated that there are no resource areas along Glenoe Road. There is however a resource area near Woodland Road – he stated that he made a conservative delineation based on GIS. F. Russell stated that there is a second culvert near Laurel Road which an intermittent stream goes through that the Town will have to go over as part of the proposed work. He stated that erosion control measures would be in place prior to the onset of work and any disturbance would be temporary (limited to a day and a half). He added that all work would take place within the paved right of way. F. Russell opened the floor for questions.

T. Brady inquired about the intermittent stream, and asked F. Russell to confirm if it is the stream that discharges from the golf course. F. Russell confirmed this.

M. Quigley asked about the specific erosion and sediment controls that would be utilized. F. Russell replied that silt sacks and overflows would be used.

R. Schnoor inquired about the timeline for the project. F. Russell responded that he will be going before the Select Board next week and is hoping to award the project. He anticipates work will begin in two to three weeks. He stated that he expects a three-month construction period.

P. Harvey asked if water utility lines are exempt under the Act. T. Brady stated that it typically is, but since this would be a new line as opposed to an existing line, it is not exempt.

P. K. Mande asked whether there will be any opportunity as part of this project to add on work around stormwater management and/or water quality benefits. She wondered if any analysis has been done regarding retrofits for this roadway. F. Russell replied that he has not done any of those studies for this project. P. K. Mande asked whether the applicant could look at that. F. Russell stated that he was not sure what improvements could be made. He discussed the existing infrastructure and said he would be open to suggestions. T. Brady stated that he can coordinate with the Engineering Division and find out where Hammond Street is in the CIP. M. Quigley commented that anytime a significant construction project is happening on a roadway, it is an opportunity to think about what else the Town could be doing. F. Russell agreed, and noted that he is looking at municipal parking lots regarding reduction of phosphorous loading.

M. Quigley made a motion to close the hearing. W. Lohe seconded. All in favor.

MUDDY RIVER UPDATE

T. Brady stated that work is progressing. He visited Leveret Pond this morning to review the proposed restoration plan. T. Brady continued that he is meeting with Charter Environmental once a month to ensure there is no confusion moving forward. He stated that he has asked the Army Corps of Engineers for a quote for the removal of the remaining phragmites. T. Brady and P. K. Mande discussed potential funding opportunities for additional work.

DISCUSSION OF CPA AND PLPA

T. Brady stated that he had sent some information to the Commission regarding the Public Lands Preservation Act (PLPA). M. Quigley inquired about previous actions the Commission has taken regarding this legislation, if any. T. Brady stated that the Commission has drafted a letter of support and sent it in to representatives.

P. Harvey gave a brief history of the PLPA. She stated that PLPA legislation has been up for discussion for some time. She noted that the most recent version is trimmed down, and noted that it has a robust list of sponsors.

W. Corrdin asked whether Brookline's senators are in support of the legislation. T. Brady stated that the Commission should find out and send a letter either thanking them for their support or asking them for their support. T. Brady stated that he can ascertain whether Brookline's representatives support the legislation.

P. Harvey stated that the CPA is up for vote on May 4th. M. Lazar and M. Quigley discussed the history of CPA in Brookline. M. Quigley stated that he'd be in support of providing a letter if the Commission feels it would be appropriate. R. Schnoor

suggested writing a letter to the TAB before the election relaying the Commission's support. The Commission determined that W. Corrdin would coordinate.

W. Lohe made a motion that the Commission support the CPA and PLPA and be prepared to make a formal statement or letter if asked to do so by the proponents. P. K. Mande seconded. All in favor.

STAFF UPDATE

T. Brady stated that work at Larz Anderson is underway. He added that he anticipates that the lagoon's debris will be removed and transported around June. He stated that the Carlton Street Footbridge is also underway, and commented that all tree removals associated with the project will be taking place this Friday and Saturday. He added that he will be on site during this work.

T. Brady discussed active projects across Town, and stated that he has been out looking at a variety of different projects with the Director of Parks and Open Spaces. He noted that Sargent Pond looks OK at the moment in regards to algae. He also stated that the erosion and sediment controls for the project on Cottage Street need improvement, and he has communicated this to the homeowner.

T. Brady stated that he has been involved in egg addling with the Park Rangers.

T. Brady stated that some funding may become available to address grading at the Hoar Sanctuary (specifically the boardwalk crossing from the tennis courts to the sanctuary).

He noted that he has been in dialogue with the Park School regarding their Conservation Restriction and that he is continuing to communicate with the neighbors regarding this matter.

T. Brady stated that he has been in conversation with Dexter School regarding their permitted drainage project. There was a small riprap failure last fall which they are looking to repair.

T. Brady expressed his gratitude in being nominated for the MACC's Conservation Administrator of the Year award. He said that the virtual award ceremony will take place at Saturday at 4 PM and invited the Commissioners to attend.

K. Weatherseed gave an update on the Urban Forest Climate Resiliency Master Plan and noted the upcoming May 17th draft report presentation. P. K. Mande asked if there is any way in which the Commission might be able to help support the Master Plan, and K. Weatherseed asked that they spread the word about the upcoming public forum within their networks.

R. Schnoor inquired about upcoming site tours. T. Brady stated that the Commission can arrange a site visit of the Country Club in May. He added that he can start thinking about an appropriate time for the Muddy River site visit.

Determination of Applicability Issuance: Hammond Street

The Commission discussed additional conditions, including stormwater controls, and that the issuance of a Determination of Applicability does not confirm the determination of the resource as set forth (intermittent).

P. Harvey made a motion to issue a Negative Determination #3 with conditions. P. K. Mande seconded. All in favor.

ADJOURN

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

Minutes prepared by K. Weatherseed