

Brookline Conservation Commission Meeting
Tuesday, April 23, 2019, 7:00 PM
School Committee Room, Town Hall

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

Commissioners Absent: 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. He asked if there were any amendments to the Agenda. It was suggested that the Agenda item originally scheduled for 7:05 PM be postponed until the Applicant arrives, and that the Commission instead address the Open Space Plan update and the Muddy River review. The Commission reviewed the minutes from April 2, 2019.

W. Lohe made a motion to approve the minutes from April 2, 2019. P. Harvey seconded. All in favor.

OPEN SPACE PLAN UPDATE

T. Brady stated that he has received final approval from the State and plans on meeting with the co-chairs this afternoon. He stated that the Commission has been sent an electronic draft. M. Quigley suggested that the Town do some outreach once the plan is published.

MUDDY RIVER REVIEW

T. Brady stated that this project will be out to bid in June. Chapter 91 licenses and permits have been submitted to DEP.

**PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE NOTICE OF INTENT FOR 25 SEARS ROAD,
FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF SUBMITTED BY METROWEST
ENGINEERING, INC., ON BEHALF OF THEIR CLIENT, JOSE BLANCO**

Rob Gemma, of MetroWest Engineering, was present to discuss the project. He stated that since the last public hearing, MetroWest had refined the staging and the erosion and sediment control plan. R. Gemma gave a brief review of the layout of the site and project area. He explained that Lot 17 would serve as a stockpile area for rock and loam. He continued that some material will be exported offsite. He identified a temporary active work zone and the area for contractor parking during construction.

R. Gemma stated that two sets of erosion control will be installed, in case the first system fails. He added that the narrative submitted by MetroWest was revised to include more

information on the proposed blasting work. MetroWest Engineering has also submitted a landscaping plan for the residential area and the bio-retention area/raingarden. R. Gemma described the landscaping proposed for the bio-retention area.

R. Gemma stated that a wetland scientist examined the area that the Commission considered potential vernal pool habitat. They concluded that the area has some characteristics of a closed basin, however there was no activity of spring peepers or other indicative wildlife.

T. Brady inquired about the processing of the rock on Lot 17, and his concerns that the grade may make it tricky to keep the rock/debris out of the wetland. R. Gemma stated that Lot 17 is outside of the 150 foot buffer zone and they have proposed double erosion control measures. He added that the contractor will be using a misting system to mitigate the amount of dust. The rock excavation process is proposed to take approximately 4 months. The processed stone will be put back into the system to be used for landscaping drainage. M. Quigley inquired about the total area of disturbance and whether it exceeds 1 acre, as that would mean the project was a project of major significance under the Stormwater bylaw.

R. Gemma described the soils within the bio-retention/raingarden area and how he believes it will function. He stated that the facility will retain a 100 year storm just below the overflow threshold.

Gabriel D'Annunzio, contractor, stated that after the blasting occurs, he anticipates that little processing will need to happen as puddingstone fractures very quickly and easily.

M. Quigley asked R. Gemma about the longterm operation maintenance of the facility. R. Gemma stated that he anticipates the feature most in need of maintenance will be landscaping. He added that plantings will be evaluated over time to identify what is working and what is not.

The Commission and R. Gemma discussed the language used to describe the stormwater facility. R. Gemma concluded that he would like to classify the facility as a stormwater system.

D. Meyers inquired about the irrigation associated with the planting plan. R. Gemma responded that there will not be permanent irrigation, however the plantings will be irrigated during the installation period. He stated that the contractor will be watering as needed.

T. Brady read the description of the term "vernal pool" as written in the Town's bylaw and stated that the resource is not necessarily defined by obligate species. The Commission decided that T. Brady will join the wetland scientist on site to look at the area again.

The Commission determined that they would like to see some construction fencing installed in front of the primary limit of work. They concluded that this should be drafted as a condition.

T. Brady inquired about cleanouts of drainlines into the stormwater system. R. Gemma stated that a plumbing plan has not yet been established. The Commission decided that a condition should be drafted stating that drainlines exceeding 30 feet in length should have cleanouts.

M. Quigley asked whether R. Gemma is comfortable excluding explosives that contain perchlorate. G. DAnnunzio said that he has previously used blasting techniques that do not involve perchlorate which he can utilize.

Glenn Johnson, abutter, asked for clarification on the layout of the map. R. Gemma described the layout of the plan. G. Johnson voiced his concern about the blasting of rock and subsequent processing for a 4-month period. G. DAnnunzio replied that blasting will be the quickest means of performing the work. G. Johnson inquired about the jurisdiction of the Commission. The Commission responded that they only have jurisdiction over the impact of the blasting in relation to the impact on wetlands. G. Johnson and R. Gemma discussed the anticipated work schedule.

P. Harvey made a motion to close the hearing. D. Meyers seconded. All in favor.

DISCUSSION OF PERENNIAL STREAMS IN BROOKLINE

T. Brady stated that M. Lazar had identified perennial streams in a portion of Brookline. M. Quigley suggested that the Perennial Stream map could be subject to a number of revisions.

STAFF UPDATE

T. Brady stated that the recent wind storm had damaged several trees. He also stated that some illicit activities have been taking place at Hall's Pond, including dumping issues, graffiti issues, etc. T. Brady stated that the wetlands in Dane Park have recently been enhanced. T. Brady continued that this year's egg addling was successful. T. Brady stated that he is in the process of getting quotes from Weston and Sampson to do a feasibility study and cleanup of Willow Pond, as it is no longer a part of the Muddy River. T. Brady stated that Boston awarded and executed a large contract for Ward's Pond.

325 HEATH ST

The Applicant for 325 Heath Street was not present, and John McDermott requested a brief recess.

After a 5 minute recess, the Commission reconvened. J. McDermott stated that he was present on behalf of Anthony Rossi, who was running late. He continued that the materials that were submitted by the Applicant reflect the current condition of the back

yard and disturbed area. The disturbed area is proposed to be reseeded with grass. He stated that a new fence will demarcate the conservation area.

T. Brady gave an overview of how the cease and desist was issued. T. Brady inquired about the placement of the proposed fence, and what is to prevent the impingement on the Conservation Restriction again. J. McDermott stated that he believes the disturbed area was originally maintained as grass and seed.

The Commission decided to schedule a site visit. The Commission decided to meet on Friday, May 3rd at 8 AM. W. Lohe noted a typographical error on the plan.

A. Rossi arrived, and stated that he can find pictures showing the historical Paine Estate and how the land was maintained in the past.

ADJOURN

P. Harvey made a motion to adjourn. B. Wish seconded. All in favor.

Minutes prepared by Katie Weatherseed