

**Brookline Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes**  
**Tuesday, August 3, 2021, 7:00 PM**  
**Zoom Virtual Conference**

**Commissioners Present:** Marcus Quigley (Chair), Roberta Schnoor (Vice Chair), Pallavi Kalia Mande, Pamela Harvey, Werner Lohe, Will Corrdin, Marian Lazar (Associate)

**Commissioners Absent:** Sam Burrington

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

**Guests:** See attached.

**AGENDA REVIEW/MINUTES**

M. Quigley opened the meeting. P. Harvey requested that the agenda be modified to include a discussion of an informal social gathering of the Commissioners.

The Commission reviewed the minutes from July 20, 2021.

*P. Harvey made a motion to accept the minutes from July 20, 2021. W. Lohe seconded. All in favor.*

**PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE NOTICE OF INTENT FOR HAMMOND POND PARKWAY (SOUTH SIDE) FOR MAINTENANCE OF AN UNDERGROUND ELECTRIC TRANSMISSION LINE CABLE, SUBMITTED BY THE BSC GROUP, INC., ON BEHALF OF THEIR CLIENT, CHRISTOPHER NEWHALL OF NSTAR ELECTRIC COMPANY D.B.A. EVERSOURCE ENERGY**

Paul Knapik, of the BSC Group, introduced himself. He described the scope of the proposed project. He noted that the project concerns an underground anode bed which will run from Horace James Circle and connect to a rectifier. From there, a shallow trench will extend 1200 feet along the south edge of Hammond Pond Parkway and terminate about 1000 feet to the west of the circle. He added that towards the end of the termination, there will be 12 separate anodes installed vertically that connect to the lead cable, the purpose of which is to provide cathartic protection to slow the corrosion of the cable casing. He noted that part of the work will take place within the 100 and 150 foot buffer zones to the bank and BVW. He described the site as a forested wetland area, and added that he conducted a walk-through of the site with T. Brady and Chris Newhall. He stated that the work will take place entirely within the road shoulder of Hammond Pond Parkway, about 8-10 feet off the edge of the pavement. He stated that the installation will be done with a small rubber tire backhoe or excavator. He added that before the work is conducted, erosion controls will be installed at the top of the slope. P. Knapik stated that the trench will be backfilled to existing grades and stabilized with conservation seed mixture. He also stated that the work requires minor trimming of tree limbs and the

removal of a box elder and crabapple for cable access. He noted that he is working with DCR to get the appropriate permits, and has submitted a plan to their arborist.

P. K. Mande inquired whether it is possible to replace the removed trees with new trees. P. Knapik responded that he cannot speak on behalf of Eversource, but noted that he expects a similar request from DCR for a 1:1 replacement. He stated that he feels it would be appropriate for the Commission to require replacement tree planting in a special condition of the Order.

R. Schnoor asked P. Knapik to discuss why this site in particular was chosen for this work. P. Knapik stated that the work needs to take place in saturated soils. He stated that the electric cable is encased in a steel conduit. As the steel corrodes it gives off a charge and the anode effectively negates that charge so that it slows the corrosion process. P. Knapik added that he is not an electrical engineer. M. Quigley asked what the anodes are made of. P. Knapik stated that he is uncertain and that M. Quigley would need to ask an engineer. M. Quigley inquired how common this installation is in Massachusetts. P. Knapik replied that it is very common in the pipeline industry.

P. K. Mande asked if there is any concern of something leaching into the groundwater. P. Knapik responded no. T. Brady inquired about the lifespan of the anodes. P. Knapik responded approximately 40-50 years.

P. Harvey noted that P. Knapik cited the limited project provision in the Notice of Intent and inquired whether that is solely applicable for overhead public utilities or includes underground utilities as well. P. Knapik responded that it includes underground utilities.

M. Quigley asked if there were any questions or comments from the public. There were none.

T. Brady stated that he had similar questions as the Commission and noted that he thinks it is important that the installation take place up-gradient of the resource (not in the resource) and very close to the roadway shoulder. He suggested that the Commission include a tree planting provision in the Order.

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

### **DISCUSSION OF PERENNIAL STREAMS IN BROOKLINE**

T. Brady stated that the Commission should have received an electronic map of the perennial streams in Brookline. He asked for the Commission to review the streams by August 15<sup>th</sup> and staff will input the streams into GIS.

He added that there is draft language from Burlington's bylaw that he and K. Weatherseed have looked at. He stated that he wants to develop similar language for Brookline and will send it out to the group for their review. He stated that the

Commission will have to do a notification of a change of a local bylaw as part of the public hearing process.

### **POTENTIAL VOTE TO ACCEPT AND SUPPORT THE URBAN FOREST CLIMATE RESILIENCY MASTER PLAN**

T. Brady stated that the Commission should have received a draft letter. He inquired whether the Commission is comfortable accepting and stating their support for the Master Plan, and if so, whether they feel comfortable having M. Quigley sign the letter on their behalf.

*P. Harvey made a motion to accept and support the Urban Forest Climate Resiliency Master Plan and to have M. Quigley sign the draft letter on behalf of the entire Commission. W. Corrdin seconded. All in favor.*

### **BROOKLINE CONSERVATION LAND TRUST – DISCUSSION OF CONSERVATION COMMISSION REPRESENTATIVE**

M. Quigley stated that W. Corrdin has vocalized his interest in serving as the Commission's representative on the Brookline Conservation Land Trust.

W. Corrdin stated that his main interest in the work of conservation is around conserving and protecting open space, particularly wild, naturalized space. He is interested in protecting and preserving those naturalized spaces in Brookline and advocating for more, where possible. He stated that on a more personal note, his family owns some land and will eventually need to determine what to do with said land. He would like to learn more about land preservation efforts as a volunteer and land owner.

P. K. Mande inquired how much conservation land is held by the BCLT versus other trusts. She asked if there is any difference between working with a state trust as compared to a local trust. W. Lohe responded that his impression is that local trusts are more interested in smaller tracts of land than bigger organizations and state trusts. He also noted that the Town sometimes cannot move quickly enough to protect land, whereas the BCLT is more nimble. W. Corrdin added that larger land trusts will also be looking for financial backing for the land they take, and look specifically for contiguous properties.

R. Schnoor stated that W. Lohe has been incredibly effective in this position in raising awareness and visibility of the land trust. She stated that there were recent discussions about a joint presentation with Greenspace Alliance and the BCLT. She would like to see the land trust and the Town partner and prepare a presentation for land owners.

M. Quigley suggested re-visiting the representative appointment every three years to allow Commissioners the flexibility to step in and out of roles. W. Corrdin agreed and stated that standing or appointed committees could benefit from rotations to build the Commission's collective knowledge.

*P. Harvey made a recommendation that the Chair appoint W. Corrdin as the Commission's representative on the Brookline Conservation Land Trust for a 3-year term. P. K. Mande seconded. W. Corrdin abstained. All others in favor.*

M. Quigley inquired if the Commission should submit a letter to the Trust. W. Lohe responded that there has to be a formal document recorded with the registry of deeds, and added that he can work on that. T. Brady stated that he will reach out to Joe Geller and inform him that staff is putting together a letter discussing a change of representative from the Conservation Commission. M. Quigley noted his appreciation for W. Lohe's assistance with the transition.

### **MUDDY RIVER UPDATE**

T. Brady stated that the dredging at Leverett Pond has been completed. He added that the footprint of the dredge area shifted closer to Brookline, and the byproduct is that there are remnants of the sandbar close to the Riverway on-ramp that have remained. He noted that this is intentional.

T. Brady stated that the intermittent oil discharge has continued and the Town is continuing to work with DEP to track down the source.

T. Brady stated that the contractor will begin landscaping on areas downstream in the fall. He added that pesticide applicators will be doing a follow-up treatment for invasive species, and will be back in three weeks to continue this work.

He stated that dredging continues downstream, but noted that recent weather events delayed this work.

T. Brady said that he conducted a walk-through with senior leadership today. One of the discussions regarded the water level, and the team will be pulling together a larger group in mid to late fall to discuss this matter in more detail.

T. Brady stated that the inspection team that reviewed Phase 1 work from the Corps of Engineers has completed their report. He expects to see this shortly.

T. Brady said that when the contractors begin work on the Brookline Avenue path, there will be some temporary closures. He added that when walking the site today, he identified an 8 inch Norway Maple in decline that the contractor will have to remove to access the riverbank.

### **STAFF UPDATE**

T. Brady stated that the Carlton Street Footbridge project continues. He added that the project team discovered that there is more structure in place than originally thought.

T. Brady stated that in regards to 100 Cottage Street, the draft Conservation Restriction has been finalized and submitted to the EOEEA for comments. This will lead to a vote from the

Commission and Select Board. He added that he has spoken with the Building Commissioner and has requested that he issue a 6-month Certificate of Occupancy for the house.

T. Brady stated that in regards to 88 Cottage Street, work has begun again. He stated that he did a walk-through with their building representative last week, and noted that the pond and bank restoration that the Commission permitted need attention and that the Commission will need to address this before permitting a Certificate of Occupancy.

T. Brady said that Warren Street is close to closing out their project. He noted that he asked for additional protections on the banks and the applicant installed those erosion controls promptly and successfully.

In regards to The Country Club, T. Brady noted that he has seen fewer issues with cross contamination and algal blooms.

T. Brady stated that Larz Lagoon continues to be dewatered. He stated that the footbridge has been formed, the causeway is 1/3 formed, and the tempietto is in process. He continues to monitor for snapping turtles. He added that accumulated material removed will be composted and reutilized elsewhere.

T. Brady shared that an osprey was spotted at Hall's Pond Sanctuary and showed the Commission a picture.

T. Brady stated that there is a significant algal bloom in Jamaica Pond. Since it discharges to the Muddy River, he has been keeping eyes on it. M. Quigley asked whether most of it is in Boston's jurisdiction. T. Brady confirmed that it is. They discussed how perplexing the bloom is, especially with all the recent rain. T. Brady said that he has talked with his colleagues in Boston and suggested looking at the outfall. M. Quigley stated that he would be happy to speak with them, too. P. K. Mande asked whether the culverts are owned by Boston Parks or Boston Water and Sewer. T. Brady responded that he wasn't sure. P. Harvey asked if DCR has a role in this. T. Brady responded no – they have control of the roadways around Jamaica Pond, but not the pond itself.

P. Harvey stated that the PLPA was approved by the house. M. Quigley confirmed that Town staff can use his e-signature on the letters pertaining to the PLPA and CPA.

The Commission discussed organizing a social gathering. They suggested meeting outdoors at one of the parks – perhaps meeting at Skyline Park and walking around Lost Pond in October. R. Schnoor, P. K. Mande and P. Harvey will work on moving this forward.

The Commission reviewed a draft Order of Conditions for DEP File Number 120-189, BWB 21-02 for Hammond Pond Parkway. T. Brady noted that he included a condition requiring a sedimentation and erosion control plan. He stated that based on tonight's discussion, he will also add a condition requiring that the applicant replant at least 2 replacement trees of 2.5 – 3 caliper inches.

*P. Harvey made a motion to issue the Order of Conditions for DEP File No. 120-189, BWB 21-02 with the added condition requiring replanting as specified above. P. K. Mande seconded. All in favor.*

T. Brady stated that the meeting on August 17<sup>th</sup> will be canceled, due to the lack of a quorum.

**ADJOURN**

*P. Harvey made a motion to adjourn. P. K. Mande seconded. All in favor.*

Minutes prepared by K. Weatherseed