

Brookline Conservation Commission Meeting
Tuesday, October 29, 2019, 7:00 PM
Denny Room

Commissioners Present: Roberta Schnoor (Acting Chair), Benjamin Wish, Werner Lohe, Pallavi Kalia Mande

Commissioners Absent: Pamela Harvey, Marcus Quigley, Deborah Myers

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

Guests: See attached.

AGENDA REVIEW/MINUTES

R. Schnoor called the meeting to order. No amendments were made to the agenda. The Commission reviewed the minutes from October 15, 2019.

W. Lohe made a motion to approve the minutes. B. Wish seconded. All in favor.

CONTINUED PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE NOTICE OF INTENT FOR 143 LAUREL ROAD

T. Brady stated that his office received additional information from the applicant, per the Commission's request at the previous hearing.

P. K. Mande made a motion to close the hearing. B. Wish seconded. All in favor.

T. Brady directed the Commission to review a draft Order of Conditions, which was prepared by staff.

B. Wish made a motion to issue the Order of Conditions as drafted. P. K. Mande seconded. All in favor.

DISCUSSION OF 292 WARREN STREET PLAN AMENDMENTS

T. Brady described the history of the project, including the fact that he has received two requests for minor modifications from the Applicant since the Order was issued. He was recently contacted by the Applicant's representative with another minor modification request, and decided it was best for the Commission to review the proposal and determine whether the work constitutes a minor modification or requires an additional filing.

G. Crouch, of Vanasse Hangen Brustlin, Inc., discussed the history of the project. He stated that the approved plan set, which the homeowners are now looking to alter, included the construction of an infiltration basin. Instead of this infiltration basin, the Applicant would like to install culcetes systems to hold the water that permeates through the driveway. This system would be of the same capacity as the previously proposed basin. The applicant is also proposing the addition of trees near the drive.

R. Schnoor inquired as to whether the chambers will hold surface runoff, in addition to the water that permeates through the drive. G. Crouch replied that the chambers will only hold water that permeates through the drive, and discussed how the water will be filtered through this system.

T. Brady stated that he has received drainage calculations for the proposed chambers and he thinks they look acceptable. The Commission discussed possible concerns regarding the proximity of the work to the brook.

The Commission determined that the proposed changes qualify as a minor modification, however a letter should be sent to the applicant with the following conditions: 1) the Applicant should provide the Conservation Administrator with a planting plan for the area between the brook and drive (including trees, shrubbery and grasses), 2) the area maintained as grass above the infiltration chambers may only be mowed one to two times a year, 3) an operations and maintenance plan for the infiltration chambers should be submitted, 4) and the Applicant should stake out the location of the proposed chambers and meet with the Conservation Administrator on site for his review and approval prior to installation.

W. Lohe made a motion to issue a letter determining the proposed changes as minor modifications, with conditions. P. K. Mande seconded. All in favor.

Following the motion, G. Crouch stated that the Kargmans are also interested in doing some additional work to remove invasive vines, etc. T. Brady stated that he would be happy to meet with G. Crouch on site to discuss the matter further.

STAFF UPDATE

T. Brady gave updates regarding the back landfill and Hall's Pond work. He also mentioned that it is possible that a new Conservation Restriction will be developed. Lastly, T. Brady stated that the Parks and Open Space Division is submitting an application for an MVP action grant for the development of an Urban Forest Climate Resiliency Master Plan. Staff had prepared a draft letter of support for the Commission to review and edit as they see fit, and vote on so that the Chair can sign on behalf of the Commission.

B. Wish made a motion to accept the letter as it is drafted. P. K. Mande seconded. All in favor.

ADJOURN

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

Minutes prepared by K. Weatherseed