

Brookline Conservation Commission Meeting Notes

Quorum Not Present

Tuesday, February 11, 2020, 7:00 PM

Town Hall, Room 103

Commissioners Present: Werner Lohe, Roberta Schnoor, Pamela Harvey, Marian Lazar (Associate)

Commissioners Absent: Marcus Quigley, Pallavi Kalia Mande, Benjamin Wish

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

Guests: See attached.

AGENDA REVIEW/MINUTES

A quorum was unexpectedly not present for this meeting. Since some Commissioners had assembled, an informal meeting took place. The Commission reviewed the minutes from January 14, 2020.

PUBLIC HEARING FOR NOTICE OF INTENT FOR THE COUNTRY CLUB

Sarah Stearns, of Beals and Thomas, Inc., stated that she and Dave Johnson had a good site walk with the Commission of the property since the last public hearing. She reviewed the advisory comments made by the DEP, including a water quality dredging certificate (currently underway) and a wildlife habitat evaluation. She stated that since this is a resource area improvement project and the Applicant can manipulate the water level, she did not think it necessarily requires a wildlife habitat evaluation. However, she stated that she completed a limited wildlife habitat evaluation for the formal record and to satisfy any concerns of the DEP and the Commission. She continued that the impacts of the proposed project are temporary and The Country Club will have no need to file a similar project for a long while. She recounted the proposed scope of the project and opened the floor to any questions the Commission may have.

In relation to the limited wildlife habitat evaluation form, P. Harvey asked which ponds exist as open water in the winter. S. Stearns replied that the irrigation pond is never frozen solid during the winter. W. Lohe said that he appreciated visiting the site and is comfortable seeing the project move forward.

T. Brady stated that, since a quorum was not present for the public hearing, the Commission should close and propose conditions at the next meeting. S. Stearns said that she would be happy to answer any questions that arise whilst drafting the Order of Conditions. T. Brady asked whether the Applicant is looking for a three year order. S. Stearns answered yes, however they may need to request an extension.

WETLAND REGS

P. Harvey stated that she believes the Commission will most likely need to change the bylaw, which will require the Commission to go through Town Meeting. P.

Harvey and R. Schnoor will meet with T. Brady prior to the next meeting to discuss the proposed changes and the bylaws of other municipalities.

PERENNIAL STREAMS

T. Brady stated that he will continue working on an updated map.

MUDDY RIVER REVIEW

T. Brady stated that the Army Corps of Engineers requested additional funds for the project, which they anticipate should lead to the award and execution of the contract. He stated that a bid came in for the Carlton Street Footbridge.

STAFF UPDATE

T. Brady stated that he visited The Country Club with D. Johnson to look at additional proposed work, including tree removal, the relocation of electrical infrastructure, and a small drainage issue on one of the fairways.

T. Brady continued that he received a draft NOI from the Engineering Division for the Larz Anderson Park. He stated that it is a fairly straight forward project and that it will be coming before the Commission at their next meeting.

T. Brady said that some work removing invasive species at Hall's Pond has been completed. He added that the Friends of Hall's Pond cleanup is approaching and he will notify the Commission of a date when he is informed of the details.

He mentioned that the annual winter tree identification walk will be taking place next Sunday morning and invited the Commissioners to attend if they wish.

T. Brady reminded the Commission about the upcoming MACC conference on February 29th.

T. Brady stated that the Brookline Conservation Land Trust is working with the Richardson property regarding the conservation restriction on site.

ADJOURN

Minutes prepared by K. Weatherseed