

Brookline Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, February 25, 2020, 7:00 PM
Town Hall, Room 111

Commissioners Present: Marcus Quigley (Chair), Roberta Schnoor (Vice Chair), Werner Lohe, Benjamin Wish, Pallavi Kalia Mande, Marian Lazar (Associate)

Commissioners Absent: Pamela Harvey

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

Guests: See attached.

AGENDA REVIEW/MINUTES

The Commission reviewed the set of minutes from January 14th, 2020 and the informal meeting notes from February 11th, 2020.

W. Lohe made a motion to approve the minutes from January 14, 2020. R. Schnoor seconded. All in favor.

PUBLIC HEARING FOR NOTICE OF INTENT FOR THE COUNTRY CLUB

T. Brady stated that the Commission had an informal hearing for the Country Club on February 11th. He reviewed what was discussed at the last meeting, and stated that the Commission was unable to close the hearing due to the lack of a quorum. He had informed the applicant that their attendance was not necessary this evening. He asked if the Commission felt comfortable closing the hearing and reviewing a draft order.

W. Lohe suggested that the Commission close the hearing. M. Quigley stated that The Country Club also has a good track record in communicating with the Commission.

R. Schnoor made a motion to close the hearing. B. Wish seconded. All in favor.

T. Brady distributed a draft Order of Conditions. The Commission reviewed the draft Order. T. Brady commented that additional details will be required and has been noted in the conditions.

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

PUBLIC HEARING FOR NOTICE OF INTENT FOR THE LARZ ANDERSON PARK

Scott Landgren, Senior Landscape Architect for the Town of Brookline, introduced himself, along with Dan O'Donnell, Civil Engineer for the Town of Brookline, and Mark Klopfer, project consultant. S. Landgren showed the Commission aerials of the park and surrounding area and described the park features relevant to the project. He described the history of the property, including ownership and how the site was developed overtime. S. Landgren then stated that in 2018, the Town hired KMDG to review multiple structures associated with the lagoon and it was determined that

the features in question are in poor condition and require renovation/replacement. S. Landgren showed pictures of the existing structures, illustrating their deterioration, and reviewed how the project proposes the replacement of the structures. He reviewed the proposed plans, including an erosion and sediment control plan. S. Landgren opened the floor for questions.

R. Schnoor asked when the applicant will start work and how long they anticipate it may take. M. Klopfer stated the work will commence this summer and should only take one summer construction period to complete. R. Schnoor asked whether the entire area will be fenced off. M. Klopfer responded that they plan to create two work zones and set up temporary paths around the lagoon. He continued that the applicant plans to grind down the entire path and install a new topcoat to ensure that the surface is continuous. W. Lohe inquired about the proposed concrete work. M. Klopfer stated that after a lot of analysis, they determined that the original structure was most likely cast-in-place. The applicant is working with a monuments consultant who has assessed what the original finishes and construction methods were and is reviewing the applicant's plan. He continued that he has a short list of pre-casters capable of executing the work, and mentioned that a lot of this work will be done in the shop, as opposed to in the field. The proposed work on the causeway and footbridge will be cast-in-place, as well as the foundations for the tempietto. M. Quigley inquired about work done on the causeway and footbridge in 1990. S. Landgren stated that the 1990 project involved various repairs and surficial work to extend the life of the structures.

T. Brady clarified for the Commission that the causeway will be completely removed down to its foundation and replaced. M. Klopfer added that the proposed strategy is believed to be the best way to proceed without significant impact. B. Wish asked if there has been an analysis on any potential impacts to wildlife. S. Landgren responded that erosion and sediment controls will be implemented. He added that he plans on dewatering small areas at a time to minimize impact, but he has not done a specific wildlife analysis. T. Brady stated that the nesting season for swans and geese will have been completed by the time the work is underway. T. Brady added that he anticipates an internal discussion regarding whether to dewater the lagoon in its entirety or this alternative approach with dewatering zones to minimize impact and provide financial flexibility for project. W. Lohe asked whether the bottom of the lagoon is a clay bottom. T. Brady responded it is a hard bottom.

S. Landgren stated that dredging may be an option depending on budget. T. Brady stated that the lagoon has a significant amount of organic matter and debris build-up. M. Klopfer and M. Quigley discussed the design of the intake and the re-circulatory basin. M. Quigley noted that the basin may actually add circulation to the pond.

M. Quigley stated that he believes the goals of this project will benefit the resource. T. Brady stated that he will draft some language in the Order of Conditions that will speak to preconstruction information. He stated that his biggest concern is the

washout station for the concrete trucks. M. Quigley suggested the applicant look into a possible dumpster for washing. M. Klopfer described the proposed access to the site, which is located near the footbridge. T. Brady stated that as the Conservation Administrator, he believes he has sufficient information to draft an Order if amenable to the Commission. T. Brady stated that since a DEP file number has not yet been issued, the hearing shall be held open and the Commission can review a draft order at the next hearing.

R. Schnoor made a motion to continue the hearing to March 24th, 2020 at 7:05 PM. B. Wish seconded. All in favor.

DISCUSSION OF PROPOSED WETLAND BYLAW REGULATION REVISIONS

R. Schnoor stated that the Commission received copies of recommended wetland regulation revisions, prepared by Weston & Sampson, back in December. She continued that P. Harvey was very involved in drafting the Boston wetland ordinance, which includes climate resiliency/change provisions, which Brookline should also consider. She stated that she met with P. Harvey and staff to discuss the recommended changes and found that while some of the recommendations may be suitable for the Brookline Wetland Bylaw, others may be better utilized elsewhere. T. Brady stated that he is looking to work with the Commission on these changes as a group. However, he asked that P. Harvey and R. Schnoor continue to serve as representatives for the Commission to review bylaw modifications and bring back suggestions to the Commission. M. Quigley stated that Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDL) may be an interesting component to consider inserting into the bylaw and regulations. W. Lohe commented that many of the recommendations included trees and vegetation. T. Brady agreed and said that these may be better situated under a different bylaw or ordinance. M. Quigley and P. K. Mande stated that they would like to be involved whenever P. Harvey, R. Schnoor and staff require additional consultation.

MUDDY RIVER REVIEW

T. Brady said he had no updates.

OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION PLAN QUARTERLY REVIEW

T. Brady explained that the Town got their initial approval letter from the state in November, 2018 (hence why the plan is called "Open Space 2018", despite the plan being finalized and published in 2019).

John Shreffler, of the GreenSpace Alliance, was present to discuss the Open Space and Recreation Plan action items. J. Shreffler remarked on how many action items are listed in the plan. T. Brady responded that some of the items are aspirational. He gave the example of the acquisition of Fisher Hill Reservoir, which was listed in multiple plans and took over a decade before it was completed. He described how each action item has next to it an anticipated date by which time the item should ideally be in progress and a list of all the relevant departments, boards and commissions that are anticipated to be involved. T. Brady continued that the more

boards and commissions are listed, the more challenging it will likely be to accomplish the task. T. Brady then reviewed the spreadsheet, and discussed several action items already in progress:

- “Ensure new development and redevelopment projects include conservation restrictions whenever possible to ensure the publicly-accessible open space is protected.” This is in progress because we have started actively discussing this with the Planning and Building departments, and we can see progress because our division was recently brought in regarding a Conservation Restriction on Boylston Street.
- “Track street improvement and redevelopment projects through CIP, and seek to designate greenways as appropriate.” Redevelopment projects have started to be seen as a tool to get to additional greenways. T. Brady gave the example of Washington Street, which was brought to the Select Board to get authorization for a complete greenway and complete streets reconstruction.
- “Establish a working group with Deputy Town administrator, etc. to investigate appropriate needs and methods to ensure reimbursements for trees.” If a car hits a Town tree, the money the Town receives currently goes into a general fund for public works. This action item would help to ensure that this money instead goes back into the urban forest and green infrastructure.
- “Work with ADA Coordinator and Commission For The Disabled to improve and maintain features which improve access to open spaces.” For the first time, an ADA Access Self-Evaluation was completed as part of the Open Space and Recreation Plan, which looks at the accessibility needs of each open space.

T. Brady noted that the spreadsheet includes the tables from 2010 and 2005, so J. Shreffler can see how things have played out in the past. He stated that J. Shreffler will see a lot of repetition of aspirational goals. He stated that traditionally, Parks and Open Space Division staff would work on these action items internally and report back to the Commission and request their guidance as necessary. T. Brady continued that a joint effort with the GreenSpace Alliance, however, will improve this process.

T. Brady stated that it would be most helpful if GreenSpace Alliance can flag any questions they have on items in the action plan, so that staff can stay on top of each item and work on getting answers to whatever may be unclear. He added that it will be helpful if J. Shreffler asks to meet with Staff and check in on our status regarding certain action items. J. Shreffler stated he would like to sit down with Staff and identify priority action items. T. Brady stated that conceptually, the list of action items were priority items that came out of the Open Space and Recreation Plan, so they are all considered priorities. J. Shreffler stated that a lot of the action items appear to be costly. T. Brady agreed and stated that some are aspirational and will take more than 7 years to complete. J. Shreffler stated that the GreenSpace Alliance would like to help and support these action items, particularly as they relate to

advocacy. T. Brady stated that the Town is appreciative of GreenSpace Alliance's work and their support in this effort.

STAFF UPDATE

T. Brady stated that the Commission may receive a Notice of Intent for a property on Warren Avenue. A Hall's Pond cleanup event is scheduled for May 17 from 11 AM -2 PM. Additional volunteer opportunities are also being organized at Dane Park and Lost Pond. M. Lazar noted two pieces of trail at the Lost Pond which are challenging when wet. T. Brady stated he knows the locations M. Lazar is concerned about and is trying to work on a solution. He stated that it might be helpful if he, M. Lazar, and Alex Cassie (Park Ranger) meet to discuss trail work.

ADJOURN

B. Wish made a motion to adjourn. R. Schnoor seconded. All in favor.

Minutes prepared by K. Weatherseed