

Minutes
Watertown Conservation Commission
Lower Hearing Room
Wednesday, March 7, 2012
7:30p.m.*
Adopted April 4, 2012

Conservation Commission Members Present: Patrick Fairbairn, Leo Martin, Maria Rose, Charles Bering

Conservation Commission Member Absent: Marylouise Pallotta McDermott, Lou Taverna

Staff Present: Christopher J. Hayward, Daphne M. Collins

Members of the Public Present: See Sign-In Form

Leo Martin chaired. *Due to a lack of quorum, the meeting was delayed to 8:05pm.

- 1) Public Hearing Continuance – NOI – Watertown Landing Pier Replacement DCR, DEP321-01501/WWO-12-01 the replacement of a pier with universal access at the Watertown Landing on Charles River Road. Owner: DCR; Applicant: CLE Engineering.**

Carlos Peña, applicant's engineer from CLE Engineering and Kevin Mooney, DCR Representative, presented the proposed project.

Peña reported that the pier structure which was washed away in the 2010 storm was being replaced. Issues associated with the project are the geese problem, ADA compliance and replanting.

Four alternatives were considered: replacing ½ of the pier; installing a railing without a pier; installing a full pier with ADA access; and installing a floating pier on the river. The alternative selected was the pier replacement with a walkway. This proposal includes the removal of 5 trees to be replaced with 4 trees and the planting of shrubs. Soil boring samplings will be conducted next week to determine the sedimentation type.

Rose inquired about compliance with Chapter 91. Mooney responded that the project was exempt since it has a license from its installation in the 1930's and the Army Corps of Engineers was notified of the pier replacement as soon as it was washed away.

Bering inquired if the replacement will withstand a future similar storm. Peña responded that the old pier was particularly vulnerable to the storm since it was near 90 years old, well beyond its 50 year life expectancy, and had dry rot. The new structure will be constructed with tropical hardwoods.

Rose inquired if the piles would be cut at the mud line or removed. Mooney responded that they would be removed with a successful, state-of-art vibration method as required by Chapter 91.

Rose suggested that a turbidity silt curtain be installed. Peña agreed that a floating silt curtain with a debris boom would be used.

Fairbairn asked what was planned to protect the vegetation and prevent alternative informal pedestrian pathways being created. Peña noted that the project is not maintenance free. Mooney responded that a temporary snow fence could be installed until the vegetation matures.

Fairbairn requested that the plan correctly identify the Common Alder as European Alder or Black Alder.

State Rep. Jonathan Hecht expressed his appreciation to the CC for advancing this project as it was one of his top priorities for the Charles River Parkway.

Close of Public Hearing: A motion was made by Rose and seconded by Fairbairn to close the public hearing. The motion was unanimously approved.

Issuance of Order of Conditions: The CC reviewed and discussed the Order of Conditions. The following conditions were imposed

- A turbidity curtain with debris boom that will encompass the work area within the river shall be installed
- 18 a, b, c, d installed in accordance to manufacturers instructions, e; 22; 23; 24; 26; 27; 30; 31; 33; 35; 36; 37 (i.e coir logs, straw wattles, silt fences); 38; 39; 40; 41.

A motion was made by Rose to Issue Orders of Conditions for the DCR's Watertown Landing Pier Replacement, DEP321-01501/WWO-12-01 and seconded by Fairbairn. The motion was unanimously approved.

- 2) **Public Hearing Continuance – NOI – Waltham Street Apartments, Waltham Street, DEP321-0147 Pending/WWO-11-05, to develop a two five-story apartment buildings and one four-story apartment building containing a total of 222 apartments, including 372 parking spaces and site amenities. Applicant: Richard Dickason, WP East Acquisitions, LLC. Owner: LIG-JCDS Realty Holding Company, LLC.**

The project was continued to the April 4, 2012 CC meeting. Hayward noted that the project had been reduced. The project is scheduled to go before the Planning Board.

- 3) **February Minutes – Approved.**
- 4) **Old Business – Item tabled to next meeting.**

Item	Update status
Whitney Hill Report	Hayward is to review the Town Manager's packet scheduled for filing before the TC.

	Hayward will bid out the markers and installation to surveyors.
Recycling Center/Filippello Park	A letter was approved to be sent to Town Council. (Letter attached). Pallotta McDermott to speak to Magoon.
Storm Water Advisory Commission	The second ordinance has been docketed with the Subcommittee. The Storm Water Commission finalized the third ordinance. Rose resigned as chair of the SWAC.
Rivers Protection Act	Gideon Shriver, Senior Planner, is updating the RPA areas on the Town's GIS map.
GSA	CC sent a letter on Dec. 8, 2011.

5) Rules and Regulations/Ordinance Update

Martin presented suggested language change for members to review.

Hayward suggested that the CC needs to define the area being protected. He presented a Three Zone Buffer System to be considered.

Comment and action was continued to the next month. The language will be sent to the Town attorney for review.

6) New Business

Best Practices - Rose presented best practices learned from the MACC Conference - 1) The CC should take a vote to close the Public Hearing section, followed by a separate vote for the issuance of the OOC section; 2) The CC should seek consent from the applicants for a continuance.

Earth Day Celebration April 21, 2012 – Elise Leduc, Charles River Conservancy, is seeking volunteers to participate in clean-up efforts.

Meeting adjourned at 9:35pm.