

Minutes
Watertown Conservation Commission
Lower Hearing Room
Wednesday, April 4, 2012
7:30p.m.
Adopted May 2, 2012

Conservation Commission Members Present: Marylouise Pallotta McDermott, Patrick Fairbairn, Leo Martin, Maria Rose, Charles Bering, Michelle Gauvin

Conservation Commission Member Absent: Lou Taverna

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

Members of the Public Present: See Sign-In Form

Pallotta-McDermott chaired.

Pallotta McDermott introduced and welcomed new Conservation Commission member – Michelle Gauvin.

- 1) 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.**

Vote: Rose moved to continue the item to the May 2, 2012 CC meeting. Fairbairn seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

- 2) Arsenal Park Entrance Improvements – Review and Selection of Contractor**

Pallotta McDermott informed that \$12,000 is available to beautify the entrance of the Arsenal Park. These funds are available from the \$1.14million building budget to construct the park. She noted that the entrance is in need of upgrading and maintenance.

Hayward reported that under the instruction of the Purchasing Agent, he contacted three landscape companies – Yard and a Half Landscaping, Leo Landscaping and Phil Mastroanni Company - to submit landscape plans and quotes for the Arsenal Park Entrance Beautification project. Hayward met with all the contractors at the site. The project was described to each with instructions to beautify the entrance with a low maintenance plan for a budget of \$12,000. All plans came in close to \$12,000. Hayward instructed the CC to select the contractor based on the merits of the design. Hayward noted that the monies must be encumbered by June 30, 2012. All applicants were invited to attend the meeting. Some CC members believed there was a source of water at the site.

Fairbairn thought the proposal by *Yard and a Half Landscaping* was the most thoughtful but he was concerned that it would need attending to and would be harder to maintain. He thought that *Leo Landscaping* was simple and would be low maintenance. He described *Phil Mastroanni Company* as boilerplate.

Rose preferred the Yard and a Half Landscaping proposal. She liked the symmetry proposed. She wondered whether a volunteer group could be recruited to water. Hayward responded that all applicants offered to maintain their plants for the first season after planting.

Tom Lewis, owner of Leo Landscaping, provided general information on his proposal. He noted that Knockout Rose was proposed but a new low ground cover rose, Wave Rose, could be used. Both were hardy and colorful.

Gauvin thought that Leo Landscaping design fits the character of the site and preferred it to Yard and a Half.

Martin was impressed by the response of all the applicants. He preferred Leo Landscaping.

Hayward reported that he worked successfully with *Leo Landscaping* who was the Town's contracted arborist for the annual tree plantings. He was concerned about the number of plants proposed in the Yard and an Half's plan especially at such a tough site.

Lewis noted that the proposal he was offering would be formal and easy to maintain, using plant species noted for their success and low maintenance.

Bering inquired about the maintenance expectation for the site. Hayward noted that the site will be under DPW's attention.

Vote: Fairbairn move to select Leo Landscaping Arsenal Park Entrance Beautification Plan. Bering seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

3) March Minutes – Adopted.

4) Rules and Regulations Update

Fairbairn illustrated the typical conditions for an urban filled bank.

Fairbairn and Martin will provide new proposed language for the next meeting for CC review. Upon agreement, the language will be forwarded to the Town's Attorney for review before a final vote.

Vote: Bering moved that Fairbairn and Martin develop the draft revised language to be presented at the next meeting. Rose seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

5) Old Business

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	Pallotta McDermott met with Magoon – TC was advancing the acquisition of an alternative site.
Storm Water Advisory Commission	The second ordinance has been docketed with the Subcommittee. The Storm Water Commission finalized the third ordinance. .
Rivers Protection Act	Gideon Shriver, Senior Planner, is updating the RPA areas on the Town's GIS map.
GSA	Hayward received word that the CC recommendation was selected. All three buildings will be removed.

6) Agent Information/Update

Hayward reported that the Watertown Landing Replacement project is delayed pending historic review compliance.

Hayward reported that the CRC has a new volunteer coordinator – Danielle Stehlick.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00pm.