

Minutes
Watertown Conservation Commission
Lower Hearing Room
Wednesday, March 6, 2013
7:30p.m.
Adopted April 3, 2013

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

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.

1. GSA Remedial Action Work Plan (RAP) and Wetlands Replication Discussion. Army Corps of Engineers, Charter Environmental

Mike Kunce, Charter Environmental, reported that two public hearings had been held on the GSA site regarding the demolition and RAP. According to Kunce, the DEP, GSA and DCR are reviewing the RAP. It will be distributed to the CC after comments by the GSA, DEP & DCR are made.

Anne Marie DesMarais, Environmental Insight, informed that she was a special employee of Nobis Engineering and the association would not impact her objectivity as a consultant for the CC.

Kunce noted that the remediation would be through the disposal of contaminated soil. The area would be covered with 18" clean soil cover underlain by a geotextile filter fabric. A vegetative support layer, consisting of 6" of clean topsoil, will be constructed over the 18" soil cover. A 6-ounce, non-woven geotextile filter fabric will provide a physical barrier. The ACOE will be responsible for inspections, checked by the DEP, before it is handed over to the Commonwealth.

A draft concept design of the wetlands replication was presented. Adjacent to Sawins Brook the area will be 1.4 acres. It will consist of an emergent island with a surrounding water depth of one foot. The moat with a shady edge is proposed to prevent and resist propagation of phragmites.

Bering inquired if the area will have public access. The team noted that the public access design would follow the remediation and wetland phases when recreation issues would be addressed.

Fairbairn questioned whether the moat will prevent phragmites over time. Mike Penko, ACOE, responded that the shade trees proposed for the edges will help impede their colonization. Fairbairn proposed cat tails to prevent phragmites. Penko said he'd consider using cat tails.

Fairbairn inquired about the flow of the wetlands. Alden Beaukewin, Nobis Engineering, responded that the overflow will be allowed to flow into Sawins Brook. Fairbairn was concerned about the organic material that would build up. He wanted more water during the summer to allow for wild life, such as frogs and peepers. Penko responded that a pond would not be in keeping with the replication for a woody wetland. Fairbairn requested that a pond be considered if more soil had to be removed. Penko responded that it would be more costly.

Fairbairn suggested a site visit.

Rose suggested that large plantings be considered when planting along the bank to prevent erosion as smaller plants take longer to succeed.

Fairbairn requested that conversations with DCR include planning for passive recreation so that elevated areas might be created to accommodate a walking loop with vistas. Penko responded that the recreation usage will be determined later in the process.

DesMarais inquired if they will be doing field characterizations in addition to the findings from the 9 test borings. She inquired if there were any field mechanisms which would handle any anomaly that may arise from an urban fill area. She was concerned about destabilizing stable materials.

Once approved, the RAP will be presented in May 2013. The draft RAP will be available to the CC sometime next week. DesMarais will review the RAP and develop CC's comments. The next public presentation will be the Final Wetlands Design. The project is expected to be completed by November 2013.

Fairbairn suggested that more water be considered for the plan and that they not be so constrained about the type of wetland to be replicated since the nature of the original wetland was unknown.

2. Minutes of the January & February 2013 Meetings – Approved.

3. Old Business

Item	Update status
Whitney Hill Report	TC adopted a formal resolution. Town to survey and mark the boundary. CC will be responsible for the annual maintenance report and public education of the land in December.
Recycling Center/Filippello Park	Cost estimates are being developed between CDM and Wacker for Fil-

	ippello Park. Input on uses to be forwarded to Recreation Dept.
Storm Water Advisory Commission	The Post Construction Storm Water Run-Off Ordinance is near completion. Ordinances to be managed by DPW.
GSA	See above Agenda Item #1.

4. Preservation Agent Update

192 Pleasant Street – Hayward informed that the 192 Pleasant Street Neighbors had filed a Superseding Order of Conditions with the DEP.

555 Pleasant Street – Hayward reported that Phase 2 of the project has begun.

Waltham Street Apartment – Hayward reported that construction has begun.

71 Arlington Street – Hay bales and silt fence have been installed but the project has had no activity.

Earth Day – Hayward noted that the Charles River Conservancy is recruiting volunteers for clean-up activities along the river.

5. New Items

Deb Whitman, 135 Maplewood Street, reported that the Dog Park Task Force is developing a dog park design for TC to consider.

Meeting adjourned at 9:30pm.