

Minutes  
Watertown Conservation Commission  
3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Conference Room  
Wednesday, July 17, 2013  
7:30p.m.

**Conservation Commission Members Present:** Marylouise Pallotta McDermott, Patrick Fairbairn, Maria Rose, Lou Taverna

**Conservation Commission Member Absent:** Leo Martin, Charles Bering

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

**Members of the Public Present:** See Sign-In Form

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Pallotta-McDermott chaired.

**1) Public Hearing – NOI - 93 California Street – Single Family House renovation, Christopher & Rose Zevitas, owner/applicants.**

Richard Kirby, LEC; Ginna Johnson, Esker Company; and Michael Kosmo, Everett M. Brooks, represented the applicant Christopher and Rose Zevitas. Kirby described the proposed project located on the riverfront area. The proposal is to demolish an existing 430 square foot garage and construct a 2 story addition in its place with a full foundation basement and a covered porch which extends from the rear of the addition over a portion of the existing flagstone patio. The flagstone will be replaced with pervious paver patio. The existing deck will be removed and replaced with pervious paver patio. The driveway will be removed and replaced with a pervious paver driveway.

Ginna Johnson, Esker Company, described the existing vegetation conditions, the invasive plant and tree removal plan and the landscaping and rain garden replacement plan.

Michael Kosmo, Everett M. Brooks, described the proposed basement sump pump connection to the street drainage system by installing a 2” force main from the sump pump along the northern sidewalk of California Street, eventually connecting to a proposed drain man hole and catch basin located within the pavement of California Street.

There were many concerns raised about the basement proposal at such a wet site and the proposed drainage system. The property owner, Chrisopher Zevitas, was open to eliminating the basement space in exchange for an attic addition with a letter of support from the CC the Zoning Board of Appeals for the needed zoning variance.

Hayward cautioned accepting changes or closing the Public Hearing without a visit to the site. It was agreed that a site visit would be held on **July 31 at 3:30pm.**

**Vote:** Rose moved that the CC continue the NOI for 93 California Street to the next meeting on August 8, 2013, following the site visit and the submission of the revised plans. Taverna seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

**2) Department of Conservation and Recreation - Vegetation Management and Yearly Operation Plan discussion – Matt Thurlow, DCR; Mark Lacombe, Northern Tree**

Hayward reported that the OOC for the Vegetation Management Plan (VMP) had expired in March. And that the Yearly Operation Plan (YOP) to control invasives such as Poison Ivy and Knotweed is part of the VMP.

Matt Thurlow, DCR, argued that the YOP was a separate contract from the VMP. He noted that the control of Poison Ivy is a seasonal one and that he was getting a lot of customer complaints about the Poison Ivy along the trails.

Fairbairn questioned whether there were complaints about the unsightly foliage after the treatment. He requested that the treatment be done with great care to avoid collateral non-Poison Ivy vegetation die off.

Eric Olson, 858 Watertown Street, Newton, inquired about the chemical treatment to be used. Lacombe responded that Rodeo would be used.

Hayward suggested that the applicant come back to the August CC meeting and bring a map with the areas to be treated identified. Hayward would send a copy of a map to Thurlow and Lacombe from the previous plan in 2008.

Thurlow and Lacombe will flag the area to be treated.

**3) Discussion on the Creation of a Land Trust**

Eileen Zubrowski, a Watertown resident and founder of the Waltham Land Trust (WLT), introduced Mark Rudneck, a fellow WLT founder. Mark Rudneck described his experiences with and the history of the organization, whose most recent success is the purchase of the Arrigo Farm, the oldest continuous farm in the United States, with Waltham CPA funds.

Rudneck highlighted the following steps used to establish the Land Trust:

- 8 to 12 community environmentalists were selected to establish the Land Trust.
- The first order of business was to establish their mission and 501-3© status
- The mission is to identify and acquire properties for public open space
- Establish a list of targeted priority properties to purchase for open space(5 of the 10 properties identified by the WLT were purchased)
- Partner with affordable housing and preservation advocates to organize and adopt the Community Preservation Act. (WLT campaigned for two election cycles until the CPA was adopted by 4 votes.)

- Establish fundraising and development activities to cover administration costs of the Land Trust- approximately \$50,000 per year.

Rudnick offered to be available to assist the CC and discuss further the establishment of a Land Trust.

Pallotta McDermott requested that members create their individual list of potential environmentalists.

**4) Minutes of the May 2013 and June 2013 Meetings – Adopted.**

Fairbairn provided a superfluity of suggested additions for both sets of minutes. Collins commended Fairbairn on his demonstrable minute taking skills especially with the imminent need for a CC secretary. Collins reported that she had resigned effective July 31, 2013.

**5) Old Business – Tabled to next meeting**

Item	Update status
Whitney Hill Report	In preparation of the CC’s charge of the annual maintenance report and public education of the land due in December a community meeting was held in May.
Recycling Center/Filippello Park	Cost estimates are being developed between CDM and Wacker for Filippello Park. Input on uses to be forwarded to Recreation Dept.
Storm Water Advisory Commission	The Post Construction Storm Water Run-Off Ordinance is completed and was forwarded to TC. Ordinances to be managed by DPW.
GSA	CC to submit an acknowledgment response letter June 7, 2013. (See item 1 above).

**6) New Business**

**Diana Proctor Donations** - Pallotta McDermott submitted to Collins 16 checks she had received from Nadine Proctor on July 1, 2013 totaling \$835 for the purchase and planting of a tree in memory of Diana Proctor. Two of the checks, totaling \$80, were issued to Nadine Proctor and Diana Proctor. A total of \$755 will be deposited to the Diana Proctor fund; and individual thank you notes will be issued to the donors.

Meeting adjourned at 9:45pm.