

Minutes
Watertown Conservation Commission
Lower Hearing Room
Wednesday, October 1, 2014
7:30 p.m.

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

Staff Present: Christopher J. Hayward, Susan C. Jenness

Pallotta McDermott chaired.

1) New Business

Public Hearing-Notice of Intent-DEP# 321-0158, WWO 14-3. To consider the narrowing (lane drop) and enhancement of Greenough Blvd and abutting bike path along the Charles River, Watertown, MA - Lawrence and Lillian Solomon Fund, applicant. Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), owner, VHB, Inc. representative.

Pallotta McDermott asks commission if they wish to make a motion to waive the Watertown Wetlands Ordinance filing fee based upon non-profit status of applicant as well as contributions being made to the community through this plan. Charles Bering moves to waive the fee. Commissioners voted unanimously in favor. The filing fee is **waived.**

Presentation made by Pete Sorensen, Project Manager, VHB, Inc.- The project is being 100% funded by the Solomon Foundation. There have been extensive studies done on traffic conditions and the results of those studies have been considered in this project. The project has been 100% approved of by the DCR.

Presentation made by Gene Crouch, Senior Wetland Scientist, VHB, Inc. - The plan is in full compliance with the American Disabilities Act. Eight foot wide islands will be added and planted with grass along the Riverfront area. These grass areas will remain consistent from Watertown into the Cambridge riverfront area as well. Grass swales will be installed for storm water mitigation purposes. Standard compost tubes will be used throughout duration of the project for erosion control.

Presentation made by Rick Corsi, DCR Representative - The project has been planned together with DCR, VHB and the Solomon Foundation in an effort to reduce impervious area and to enhance the greenway and the Charles River.

Agent Comments: Hayward requested that the CC create a special condition requiring the DCR to maintain existing catch basins along the northwestern edge of Greenough Blvd at Arsenal St. Over time those catch basins have become buried under years of

organic and manmade materials. Those materials act as a plug and during heavy rains that side of Greenough Blvd floods causing traffic and environmental concerns. Sorensen offered that beehive covers (dome shaped covers) for those catch basins could be installed to make annual maintenance easier.

Maria Rose moves to approve the plan with additional conditions. Bering seconded the motion. All are in favor and vote unanimously. **The plan is approved and an Order of Conditions will be issued.**

2) **Minutes from September 3, 2014. Discussion held.**

Peter Centola, Director of Recreation made a presentation at September's meeting. Discussion re: Insufficient natural playing surfaces in the town, and lack of open spaces to create them. The Open Space Plan will be addressed as the Town Comprehensive Plan is completed.

Minutes from September 3, 2014 meeting are approved.

- 2) **Agent Reports:** A successful day was had at the Faire on the Square. The Stormwater Advisory Committee provided educational literature to residents. Also provided was a large watershed map to help them understand how the storm water in their neighborhood drains off to the Charles River.

The Tree Warden is preparing to plant new trees in November.

The Agent urges commission members to go out and walk through these new development sites to observe storm water systems and report to him what is being discovered.

Meeting adjourned at 9:10 PM.