

Minutes
Watertown Conservation Commission
Lower Hearing Room
Wednesday, May 2, 2012
7:30p.m.
Adopted June 6, 2012

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

Conservation Commission Member Absent: Maria Rose

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

Members of the Public Present: See Sign-In Form

Pallotta-McDermott chaired.

- 1) Public Hearing – RDA – Charles River Park, Charles River Road & Irving Street, the installation of eight raised garden beds, trellis structure and two picnic tables. Applicant: Charles River Conservancy (CRC). Owner: DCR**

Danielle Stehlik, Volunteer Coordinator for the Charles River Conservancy, informed that the project consisted of 8 raised beds consistent with the Charles Riverfront Park plans designed by Sasaki. She noted that the beds will be built off site. The beds will be planted with high sensory value such as herbs. The plan includes 2 picnic tables and seating for residents. Rain barrels will also be installed to collect water for plant watering by Watertown volunteers.

Pallotta McDermott questioned how the plan will be maintained. Stehlik responded that the CRC had thousands of volunteers as well as the support of the Perkins School. In addition, the plant material was selected for its hardiness.

Pallotta McDermott inquired if Councilor Steve Corbett was informed about this project. Corsi responded that he had not. Collins will forward Councilor Corbett's contact information.

Pallotta McDermott inquired if the beds were in the 100 year flood plain area. Hayward responded that they were not.

Theo Matt, engineering student from Northeastern, noted that the beds were design by a team of Northeastern engineering students. He reported that the rain barrels will be placed on a layer of stones and filter cloth.

Fairbairn inquired if the location of the beds were connected to the future sensory path proposed in the Charles Riverfront Park plans and if the beds were in close proximity to Irving Street. Rick Corsi, DCR Senior Planner, informed that Dan Driscoll and he met with Mark Dawson of

Sasaki to discuss the plans of the Charles River Pathway. The project is being phased in two phases beginning in FY13. Corsi noted that the project is a high priority for DCR and is supported by Rick Sullivan.

Fairbairn suggested that DCR be consulted about the siting of the beds to consider the ease of grass mowing around the beds.

Gauvin suggested that a benefit analysis be done regarding the number of rain barrels needed to water the beds.

Hayward inquired if the security of the rain barrels had been considered. He suggested steel strapping the barrels to the trellis for security.

Hayward noted that the area floods and suggested moving the beds.

Vote: Taverna moved to assign a **Negative Determination** to the RDA – Charles River Park, Charles River Road & Irving Street. Fairbairn seconded the motion. 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 applicant requested a continuance to the next CC meeting.

Vote: Taverna moved to continue the item to the June 6, 2012 CC meeting. Fairbairn seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously **approved**.

3) Rules and Regulations Update

Fairbairn and Martin presented their revised Rules and Regulation language for review:

(3) No-Build Zone

(a) Without limiting the foregoing, and as an additional local requirement, no person shall build or enlarge any structure, parking lot or impervious surface upon or within an area that extends fifty (50) feet from the outer limit of a wetland resource area, e.g. any marsh, meadow, bog, swamp or vernal pool; any bank; or any river, stream, creek or brook, lake, pond or spring.

Vote: Fairbairn moved that revised Rules and Regulations language as presented be adopted. Taverna seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

Hayward will forward the proposed language change to Magoon for legal counsel.

4) April Minutes – Adopted.

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. Hayward will email the CC advancement of these items.
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. Hayward to contact Iorio regarding status.

6) Agent Information/Update

Complete Streets - Hayward reported that a *Complete Streets* workshop is being held where state-of-the-arts comprehensive proactive efforts on designing and maintaining streets will be discussed. All stakeholders are invited.

Pleasant Street Tree Fund -Hayward reported he is in discussion with Russo’s and Sons to discuss possible tree plantings at Russo’s as part of the tree planting on Pleasant Street funded from the \$25,000 Stop and Shop funds.

Community Preservation Act - members discussed how the CPA program could be a valuable source of funding for acquiring Open Space. Taverna suggested inviting Alice Ingerson, Newton CPA Manager, to discuss the value of the program for a municipality.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30pm.