

Minutes
Watertown Conservation Commission
Lower Hearing Room
Wednesday, June 5, 2013
7:30p.m.
Adopted July 17, 2013

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

Conservation Commission Member Absent: Leo Martin

Staff Present: Christopher J. Hayward, Daphne Collins

Members of the Public Present: See Sign-In Form

Pallotta-McDermott chaired. Pallotta-McDermott requested a moment of silence in memory of Diana Proctor, former chair of the CC, who died recently.

1) GSA – GSA Remedial Work Plan and Wetlands Replication Discussion – Anne Marie Desmarais, Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE), Charter Engineering

Anne Marie Desmarais reviewed the Draft GSA Remedial Work Plan and Wetlands Replication and she noted that it reflected the comments received by the CC.

Hayward, Fairbairn, Pallotta McDermott reported that they had conducted a site visit. Pallotta McDermott informed that the ACOE will remain involved for 5 years.

Mike Penko, ACOE, reported that the replication concept is an open water emerging wetland one. The plan calls for 100 tree and shrub plantings. The plantings will be on the periphery to allow for possible future walkways.

He indicated that the ACOE will be involved on the site for long term. The project is expected to be completed at the end of summer and that plantings will occur in the summer. Additionally woody plantings will be placed strategically to allow vista opportunities. He noted that trail placement and configuration will be the responsibility of DCR. He stated that a boardwalk option could be allowable across the stone protected area. Fairbairn wondered whether the outlet riprap could be designed for a smooth trail walk. Penko responded that a boardwalk would be better. Smooth rocks are slippery in comparison.

Fairbairn encouraged the development of habitats for spring peepers and toads, and for collaboration with a community herpetologist.

Fairbairn was concerned about the flushing and drainage of the wetlands and the possibility of eutrophication. He wanted a through flow. Penko responded that the design did not provide for

it, as the inlet serves also as the outlet. Hayward noted that the design allows for an important floodwater detention function. Penko elaborated that the design flood events would be infrequent and that the wetland would depend primarily on groundwater. Hayward and Desmais corroborated that the storage capacity proposed was a satisfactory compromise.

Fairbairn inquired about the propagation controls for Phragmites on the 15 acres. Penko assured that the ACOE would be around for 5 years protecting against the invasive. Fairbairn wanted assurances that the Phragmites will be cut down before it flowers and seeds.

Penko noted that only the bank is susceptible to new Phragmites and was unsure about its presence throughout the site. Round-up will be used by hand treating the shoots to control the invasive.

Hayward reported that the CC's comments are due on Friday, June 7th. He will be submitting a letter. Rose thought there was no point in sending a letter as all the issues were addressed. Hayward will meet with Pallotta McDermott to write a letter of acknowledgment.

2) Certificate of Compliance - 69 Howard Street -321-0132/WWO-08-07

Hayward conducted a site visit two weeks ago. Last year the CC received a COC request to withdraw the project. The owner did not agree and proceeded to complete the OOC. The work has been completed. The as-built-plan is pending submission. The CC recommended that the COC be held until the submission of the as-built-plan.

Rose requested that the applicant be reminded that the Operation Management Plan's obligations remain in perpetuity.

Vote: Taverna moved to issue the COC for 69 Howard Street, 321-0132/WWO-08-07 pending the receipt of the as-built-plan. Fairbairn seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

3) Minutes of the May 2013 Meeting – tabled to July.

4) Old Business

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 for-

	warded 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).

5) New Business

Land Preservation – Eileen Zubrowski will make a presentation to the CC regarding Land Preservation in the Fall.

Tree Planting – Hayward reported that he will be overseeing the Spring Tree Planting next week. He is working with Gerard Mee to coordinate the protection and planting of trees during street reconstructions.

Comprehensive Plan (CP) – Fairbairn suggested that CC members submit individually their concerns or ideas to become part of the CP. Fairbairn will submit a letter on his ideas about tree plantings and about incentives to encourage tree plantings in private front yards.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45pm.