

Minutes

Watertown Conservation Commission

**Lower Hearing Room**

**Wednesday, March 7, 2007**

7:30p.m.

**Conservation Commission Members Present:** Pallotta McDermott, Bering, Martin, Fairbairn, Hammett, Taverna

**Staff Present:** Hayward, Collins

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

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**1. Public Hearing – NOI – Restoration of Watertown Landing, Galen Street at Charles River Road, DCR, Cecil Group, Representative.**

Present representing the project were: Greg Watson, Town of Watertown, David O'Connor, Cecil Group and Rick Corsi, DCR. According to Watson, the proposed restoration of the Watertown Landing will be done in accordance to the Watertown Master Plan.

O'Connor noted that the bank erosion of the area has been exacerbated by the area shade. Presently there are bituminous walks and three war memorials.

Pallotta McDermott noted that the quality of the plan was difficult to read and requested that a better copy be provided.

O'Connor identified the following improvements to the area – brick and concrete sea wall, granite cobbles, crossed concrete walkway, rearranged benches and more added, 15 lighted

bollards, area to be loamed and seeded with mulch. O'Connor noted that shade pruning and tree removal will be undertaken to assist the success of the loam.

Pallotta McDermott asked what erosion measures were to be undertaken. O'Connor responded that the area will be loamed and seeded to improve erosion.

Martin suggested that gravel paths be provided for joggers. He was concerned about the joggers destroying the loam.

Hayward raised concerns about the shoreline erosion. He wanted to know what plans were to be undertaken to stabilize the shoreline. O'Connor said that none were being proposed under this plan. Watson noted that the Cecil Group proposal was limited to design elements in the upland area. He concurred that the area needed to be stabilized below the slope. He was entertaining bank restoration efforts for the area similar to the Army Corps of Engineer efforts at Squibnocket. He informed that an erosion control treatment would be included in the DCR plans that will go out in the contractor bids. Pallotta McDermott responded that erosion control details would be included in the Order of Conditions.

Hammett was disappointed that erosion controls were not included when the CC addressed them in 2000.

Martin noted that there are many types of erosion controls used by the ACE. Which one was being proposed, queried Martin. Corsi stated that an erosion control was needed but had not been selected. Pallotta McDermott inquired who would be making that decision.

Corsi responded that it would be the Town. Pallotta McDermott suggested that the meeting be continued until an option is selected and that this issue be resolved promptly.

Watson indicated an option could be presented for the March meeting. Pallotta McDermott noted that the options proposed be more than loam and seed. Hammett requested that the sodded area be identified in the plan.

**Vote:** Hammett moved to continue the Public Hearing to March 21, 2007. Fairbairn seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

## **2. Public Hearing Request for Extension – Charles River Vegetation Management Plan**

Corsi stated that he hasn't spent any time implementing the Charles River Vegetation Management Plan (VMP). He reported that with the upcoming riverfront improvement effort with the Solomon Fund, an arborist will be hired to trim trees and manage the poison ivy. Corsi requested to expand the scope of the VMP to allow the spraying of Rodeo on the poison ivy leaves by a licensed applicator.

Hammett expressed disappointment that the Order of Conditions had expired and not worked. She suggested only expanding the OOC by a year. She did not want to allow spraying of Rodeo.

Fairbairn did not want to allow spraying of Rodeo. He noted that it kills lots and has lasting effect. In addition, he noted that it is unsightly. He felt that the control of poison ivy has to be selective with improved manual removal.

Bering questioned what would happen if the OOC was not extended. Corsi responded that the tree pruning would be affected and that the Solomon Fund was scheduled to undertake the pruning in four weeks. Bering suggested limiting the extension to allow things to get done. In addition, he suggested that an NOI be submitted for things not included in the OC. Corsi agreed to undertake the tree pruning as discussed in the OOC and that he'd come back with a new NOI for the next meeting.

Bering inquired how long would be needed to prune the trees. Corsi responded that it would take 3 months.

**Vote:** Hammett moved to expand the OOC for the Vegetation Management Plan for two months for the sole purpose of tree pruning. Fairbairn seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

Corsi stated that he would submit a NOI for the April CC meeting for items to be done under the Charles River Management Plan.

## **3. Public Hearing – NOI – 175 North Beacon Driveway, Perkins School for the Blind, Nitsch Engineering representative**

Jerry Blumenthal, representative of Nitsch Engineering, reported that the proposed project is for the rear parking. According to Blumenthal the rear entrance exits at a crest of the Charles River Road and it is very difficult to exit or enter. The relocation of the entrance is to increase visibility and safety of the parking lot entrance. Blumenthal informed that the present driveway will be removed, loamed and seeded. The parking grade will be improved to meet the Charles River Road requirement. In addition, a new pipe will be installed to allow drainage to the catch basin.

Hayward inquired if there would be new drainage. Blumenthal said no, they are only raising it. He indicated that they will be losing one parking space.

Hammett inquired where they will be storing the snow. Blumenthal stated that the snow will be stored in the loamed area.

Taverna questioned whether they had received approval from DCR for the access onto Charles River Road. Blumenthal stated that comments have been received but no the final approval. Any requested changes that will be made, he would inform the CC.

Blumenthal stated that the permeability will be improved. He also noted that the oil water separator that was installed in 2001 was cleaned regularly.

The public portion of the meeting was closed.

#### **4. Public Hearing –Rehabilitation of Pleasant Street, Town of Watertown, Bayside Engineering, Inc., representative.**

Stephen Tyler, Bayside Engineering, reported that the project is a joint project between Town of Watertown and Mass Highway to rehabilitate Pleasant Street from Bridge Street to Howard Street similar to existing conditions. Improvement will be made to making the sidewalks handicapped accessible.

Tyler noted that the area that will be in the buffer zone will be the boardwalk by Howard Street where a silt fence and hay bales will be installed. This is the only area where the construction could potential run off into the Charles River. He noted that hay bales, sedimentation sacs for stormwater will be handled by subcontractors.

Martin noted that there were six discharges into the Charles River. Mee noted that there were six into the Charles River plus two more. Martin requested that the stormceptors located at the end of the line be done right.

Gerry Mee stated that it took 9 years to get the funding to rehabilitate Pleasant Street and based on the design they do not have the land to handle installation to address the problem with deep sumps with drains. Martin believed that were some that could fit.

Mee thought they were too big to fit in the location. Presently they use isolation in the case there is an event. He argued that if they took out the manhole and replaced it with a stormceptor he would not have the ability to isolate. He felt that deep sumps were the best solution and cleaning out the catch basins twice a year. He hoped to go out to bid in Sept/Oct. and to start building the next season.

Martin wanted stormceptors for some locations because of the protection they would provide for the river. Martin raised concerns about the stockpiling of materials. Mee responded that he cannot stockpile on the streets.

Pallotta McDermott informed that there was approximately \$30,000 from Stop & Shop in escrow for the planting of trees along Pleasant Street. She noted that she'd like to see more trees added to the 22 trees proposed in the plan. Mee was agreeable to adding trees to the proposed planting.

Pallotta McDermott inquired why Pleasant Street was torn up by Repton Place. Mee responded that the gas company had opened it up to replace utility lines. He'd like to strengthen the regulations to limit the opening of streets. Taverna inquired whether the MWRA pipe is coming before or after this project. Mee was not sure.

Hammett did not want to issue a determination on the RDA unless the project complies with the DEP's Storm Water Management Plan and responds to Martin's and Taverna's concerns.

Mee noted that the project complies with MassHighway standards and he would consider paying for and installing hoods. Tyler noted that the project was reviewed by MassHighway and all environmental questions were addressed. He indicated that MassHighway rejects the installation of stormceptors. Further, he informed that the project meets stringent ADA

and stormwater requirements. Hammett challenged this by noting the MassHighway has been sued by CRWA.

Mee agreed to have deep sumps with hoods.

Pallotta McDermott requested that Mee bring rulings and guidelines for MassHighway projects.

**Vote:** It was unanimously agreed to continue the meeting to gather more information regarding stormceptors for the next meeting held on March 21, 2007.

**5. Public Hearing Amendment Continuance – 380 Pleasant Street, Amendment to the OOC, 321-0117, WWO-05-06 for revised grading and drainage, Avary Corporation representatives.**

Gene Crouch, VHB, represented the applicant. Pallotta McDermott inquired why this issue wasn't presented before. Crouch noted that due to the soil and location of utility lines a stormceptor was not installed. Since the site was flat, the drainage was connected at grade with two chambers. All stormwater from the pavement is routed through this. It is the best treatment due to the conditions. The solution is similar to Ideal Fences'. The runoff calculations are the same.

Martin inquired whether the slope of the drain line is sufficient at another location.

**Vote:** Hammett voted to approve the amendment to 380 Pleasant Street. Martin seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

Crouch indicated that catch basins and hoods are the best solution for highway projects and plastic hoods are better than cast iron.

**6. Public Hearing Continuance – Sawins & Williams Ponds Disposal Site, Arlington Street and Coolidge Avenue, Notice of Intent, DEP#32100123/WWO-06-02, Maximos Hatziliades applicant**

Hayward informed that the NOI is being withdrawn and that an RDA would be submitted for borings in April.

**7. Conservation Ordinance Review of Town Attorney’s Comments**

Hammett did a review of changes. She provided a discussion on the changes. Pallotta McDermott requested that the CC review and be prepared to discuss it at the April meeting.

**8. February 2007 Minutes – approved with minor corrections.**

**9. Old Business - Not Discussed**

Item	Update status
Whitney Hill Report	Watson forwarded report to Town attorney. Pallotta McDermott to forward plan to TC.
Recycling Center/Filippello Park	A five member TC subcommittee est. to determine a new location. Fairbairn, Hammett and Martin on CC subcommittee. TC to consider the Shick Property with Mt. Auburn. The recycling program is to be removed from Filippello Park.
Storm Water Monitoring Results	Town pipes are being inspected by DPW. Hammett has plans from EPA. She’ll summarize for CC at the March meeting. Mee will be invited to the meeting.
Water Conservation Program	Pallotta McDermott to talk to Mee regarding water conservation program.
Gore Estate	Martin delineated and calculated area. Pallotta McDermott and Martin met with Watson. Watson and Scott to be contact with UBS in lieu of CC. Hayward to ask for schedule of meetings and request to be included. UBS waiting to hear from CC.
GSA	West side of delineation to be included. 150’ buffer and 50’

	no build to be included. Letter of appreciation to Bob Davis. Letter to DCR not to accept property until all buildings are removed. Davis to be contacted regarding Section 206.
Ordinance	Ordinance forwarded to Watson for legal review and submission to Town Council. Kimmel to submit executive summary. Town Attorney comments to be reviewed at March meeting. Hammett to review for consistency with Town Attorney comments.
Pleasant Street Master Plan	Pallotta McDermott to discuss with Watson.
Pleasant Street Tree Fund	Hayward to contact K&P regarding tree account.

## 10. New Business

Pallotta McDermott forwarded a request for support for "River Runs Through It" to Hayward.

Hayward distributed a letter from the Charles River Watershed to Gerry Mee regarding Sawins Brook water evaluation.

Hayward reported that there was a mountain of stones on property near Walker Pond. Paolini Corp has been storing processed stones from a ledge from the MacLean's Hospital site. The material will be reused for a roadway project. Paolini is renting the site from UBS and are storing the material on the parking lot. Hayward requested haybales be installed. Hayward noted that there should be a NOI and that they are in violation of state and local regulations. Paolini will remove the material in 2 months. Pallotta McDermott noted that it is a CC violation and that a letter of violation be sent and that the material be moved within a month. A certified letter will be sent to DEP, and John Felleter at UBS.

Bering requested that the CC contact the circuit rider to increase communications and information.

## 11. 175 North Beacon Street Driveway, Order of Conditions

**Special Conditions:** No tree removal will be allowed only at the last resort. Potential removal of trees 5" dbh or greater will require review and approval of Tree Warden.

18a,b,c,d,e, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 33, 35, 36, 37, 38, 40, 41a, b.

Meeting adjourned at 10:45pm