

Minutes
Watertown Conservation Commission
Lower Hearing Room
Wednesday, September 2, 2015
7:30 p.m.

Conservation Commission Members Present: Marylouise Pallotta McDermott, Patrick Fairbairn, Leo G. Martin, Maria Rose, Charles C. Bering, Louis Taverna

Commission Members Absent: N/A

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

- 1) Public Hearing Continuation – Notice of Intent –** Dealtry Pool Facility-Construction of a Spray Deck- 114 Rear Pleasant Street- Carol Sanchez, DCR, Applicant/Owner. Kevin E. McHugh, PE, Coneco, Engineers & Scientists, Inc., representative.

The Notice of Intent (NOI) in this project contains two issues concerning the Conservation Commission;

- a) Discharge of water flowing from the Spray Deck into the Charles River.
- b) Vista trimming trees and vegetation to create a clear path of sight from both the Watertown and Newton side of the site to resolve security concerns.

In regard to the Discharge of water flowing from the Spray Deck into the Charles River:

An email was sent from Gerald Mee, Jr. Superintendent of Public Works (Mee) to Agent Hayward the afternoon of the meeting based on a recent review of information solicited by Department of Conservation (DCR), from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Department of Environmental Protection (DEP).

The email was read into the record by Pallotta McDermott.

A summary of the email stated that following a review of the recently obtained information and a discussion with the DCR the Public Works Department is no longer opposed to the spray pool aspect of the Notice of Intent.

Appreciation was expressed by Mee in his email to members of the Conservation Commission, (CC) and Agent Hayward (Hayward) for resolving the complex issues in this project in such a cooperative manner.

In regard to the vista trimming trees and vegetation:

Agent Hayward (Hayward) reported that Rick Corsi of the Bureau of Planning, Design and Resource Protection at the DCR indicated that DCR is coming to the next CC meeting to renew the DCR Vegetation Management Plan. In the draft plan, he intends to include in the work scope to make provisions for trimming and removing selected overgrowth and invasive species.

Agent Hayward met with Dan Driscoll, (Driscoll), Director of Recreation and Facilities Planning from the DCR about the project plans for a vista trim to satisfy security issues discussed in this project.

While Driscoll had been unaware of this project prior to now, when he was notified, he requested a meeting with the Agent at the Dealtry Pool site. A review of what appeared to have been planted originally by the DCR 20 years ago took place. Noted was some species invasiveness to the original plan over the last 2 decades. Driscoll suggested that if the project were to go forward, a maintenance trim could be performed to clear out the invasive species from the area while leaving what was originally intended to be.

Fairbairn, who accompanied Hayward on a prior site visit to focus on the vegetation aspects of this project, stated he had no problem with trimming so long as the vegetation covered the fences. Hayward stated that both he and Driscoll agreed that a good covering of the fence prevented other security issues from occurring while the pool was in use during the day.

It was agreed that clearing up the overgrowth with the intention of bringing the area back to its intended condition with a maintenance trim would be in the best interest of all parties. Agent Hayward invited Fairbairn to accompany him when the maintenance trim takes place.

Motion: A motion was made to close the public hearing by Martin. It was seconded by Taverna.

Vote: A unanimous vote was reached to close the hearing.

Motion: A motion was made by Martin to approve the project and enter an order of conditions. It was seconded by Bering.

Vote: A unanimous vote was reached.

- 2) **Commission Minutes of July 15, 2015** are reviewed and adopted with modification by motion and a unanimous vote.

3) Old Business-Whitney Hill

Agent Hayward discussed the abutter's letter that he'd drafted with Fairbairn based on criteria discussed last month by the CC. A minor modification was discussed and agreed upon.

Fairbairn spoke about preparing for the Whitney Hill meeting with the Conservation Commission and abutters of Whitney Hill and other interested parties.

Fairbairn and the Agent said they will use the abutters list for Whitney Hill to invite the public for the meeting they are planning for the month of October. They will incorporate the Whitney Hill abutters meeting into the October 7, 2015 Conservation Commission Meeting.

4) Agent Update/New Business

Agent Hayward reported that Rick Corsi of the Bureau of Planning, Design and Resource Management at DCR intends to present a Proposed Vegetation Plan to replace the currently expired one at the October meeting.

Meeting adjourned.