

Minutes

Watertown Conservation Commission

Lower Hearing Room

Wednesday, May 7, 2008

7:30p.m.

Conservation Commission Members Present: Martin, Bering, Fairbairn, Hammett, Rose

Staff Present: Hayward, Collins

Members of the Public Present: See Sign-In Form

- 1. Public Hearing – NOI 69 Howard Street, drainage system improvements to existing parking area. Newton Roofing Company, Shawn Bryan, owner and applicant.**

Tony Stella, representative of the applicant, reported that he had spoken to Jay Pelletier about the proposed particle separator. According to Hayward, Pelletier had not been able to review the NOI. DPW does not have an engineer. Collins reported submitting the engineer's NOI copy to DPW the day the applicant filed his application.

Rose presented a memo with concerns about the NOI and recommendations (see attached). Rose requested that all methods of infiltration/recharge be explored. She felt information was missing from the NOI. She wanted information about what was going on at the site that might affect the health of the Charles River. Stella offered a tour of the site and to continue the meeting to next month after a meeting with Jay Pelletier.

Hammett noted that the Storm Water Regulations (SWR) have been updated in 1/08. The plan must be consistent with the new regulations. Stella noted he used the forms that are

posted at the DEP site. Also he informed that all the runoff is pumped into the town's drainage system.

Pallotta McDermott recommended that the applicant meet with Hayward for a site visit. Hammett expressed interest in visiting the site. Bryan suggested Friday for a site visit.

Hammett suggested that the application should meet the Storm Water Regulations of a new development requirements to the maximum extent feasible.

Stella noted that the site records indicate two catch basins and a man hole.

2. Request for Partial Certificate of Compliance – OOC 555 Pleasant Street

Hayward reported that the first half of the project is completed and that a Partial Certificate of Compliance can be issued. Planting for the back half of the project has been rescheduled for Phase II of the project. The CC approved the Partial Certificate of Compliance.

3. Old Business

Item	Update status
Whitney Hill Report	Pallotta McDermott spoke to the TC president to place item on the agenda
Recycling Center/Filippello Park	No update. Mt. Auburn backed out of site offer. CC subcommittee (Hammett & Martin) to set meeting with the new Council subcommittee.
Storm Water Monitoring Results	Hammett will present information to Town staff and CC members of the new Storm Water Mgt. for low-impact development at the May meeting.
Water Conservation Program	Pallotta McDermott talked to Mee regarding water conservation program, i.e.: sprinkler system water conservation measures. No progress.
Gore Estate	TC discussed item in Executive Session in December 2006. No update.
Ordinance	A joint subcommittee will review the item. Joint meeting to

	be schedule.
Pleasant Street Master Plan	Pallotta McDermott to contact Watson on status of Master Plan and to inquire about any changes to Pleasant Street.
Open Space Plan	Presented to Town Council.
Arc View	Grant awarded.
Grant Funding for Open Space	Pallotta McDermott received acknowledgement from Younger about her letter requesting that TC actively solicit grants for open space.

4. Saltonstall Monument

Pallotta McDermott reported that there wasn't much that CC could do to protect trees at the Saltonstall Monument since it is DCR property.

Annie Clark, representative of Trees for Watertown, expressed concern that the area will be less appealing without the trees. She urged that the trees be pruned first, and then a determination for take down be done. She also noted that though DCR will be planting replacement trees, the DCR tree plantings don't always survive due to poor watering.

Pallotta McDermott read a letter from Libby Shaw.

Pallotta McDermott, Bering and Hammett were unhappy that the large Zelkova agreed to be saved is scheduled for take down. Hammett felt that the understood agreement was misleading if the tree is slated for take down. She plans to write a personal letter about her disappointment.

Fairbairn recommended that new planted trees be watered to insure their survival. He suggested that a protest letter be sent with an insistence that any new trees be watered. He also suggested that any substitute tree be replaced with ones that will have a tall trunk when established which will provide a high crown shade. Bering agreed that a letter be sent insisting on watering.

Annie Clark felt that a walkway and speed bump would be insufficient to slow traffic enough to see monument.

Hayward noted that he met at the site with the DCR arborist and Dan Driscoll to tag the trees for vista pruning.

Hammett was not happy with the changes from what was proposed at the last CC meeting. She expressed concern that this change would affect her trust level with DCR in the future.

Pallotta McDermott requested that Hayward tell Driscoll about the CC discussions and that Driscoll's credibility was in jeopardy with CC, and that every effort be made to save the tree. She requested that Hayward call her up with the follow-up of his conversation with Driscoll.

Meeting adjourned at 9:30pm.