

Minutes

Watertown Conservation Commission

Lower Hearing Room

Wednesday, March 4, 2009

7:30p.m.

Conservation Commission Members Present: Pallotta McDermott, Martin, Rose, Taverna, Fairbairn

Staff Present: Hayward, Collins

Members of the Public Present: See Sign-In Form

- 1. Public Hearing – NOI - 140 Pleasant Street, proposed demolition of an auto shop and home, continuation and repair of retaining wall, site grading and construction of 48 unit apartment building, work proposed in the 200 foot Riverfront Area to the Charles River and the 150 foot Watertown Wetlands Ordinance buffer zone, Claudio Coppola, owner; Cresset Development, applicant.**

The Peter Gammie, representative of the applicant requested, requested in writing a continuance.

Vote: Taverna moved to continue the item to the April 1, 2009 meeting. Rose seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

- 2. January Minutes – approved.**

3. Old Business

Item	Update status
Whitney Hill Report	Pallotta McDermott requested that the item be placed on the next TC meeting.
Recycling Center/Filippello Park	Pallotta McDermott met with Magoon, who requested that the item be tabled for six months.
Stormwater Management Standards	CC awaiting Council update on Storm Water Advisory Committee.
Rules and Regulations	Hammett was hired to update Rules and Regulations.
Rivers Protection Act	Hayward to update the RPA areas on the Town's GIS map.
GSA	Pallotta received a response on 2/1/2009 from DCR's Chief Engineer to the letter she submitted to the new DCR commissioner Rich Sullivan.

4. New Business

Filippello Park Stolen Plaques Discussion – Pallotta McDermott informed that a TC member asked that the CC pay for plaques vandalized at the park. Pallotta McDermott reported that the park is not under the CC's jurisdiction and that replacement and maintenance is the responsibility of the Town.

Smart Growth Discussion – Hayward presented information on Smart Growth distributing materials on the subject: *Practice of Low Impact Development Coastal Smart Growth* and the *Governor's Sustainable Development Principles*.

Information provided by Hammett noted that there was Smart Growth Technical Assistance Grants.

Hayward informed that Pleasant Street Roadway Reconstruction project was too far along in the development process for a Smart Growth grant.

It was suggested that Magoon and Hayward select areas for Smart Growth efforts. Costs incurred for pre-grant efforts would be reimbursable by a successful grant. Pallotta McDermott inquired if economic stimulus funds could be used for this effort.

Rose suggested a Smart Growth Technical Assistance grant for Pleasant Street to provide additional development tools for Pleasant Street which would mediate the impact of development on the river.

Rose suggested that a Smart Growth public relations effort be undertaken. She noted that knowledge of Smart Growth principles would have been beneficial in the review of the Russo's Parking lot project. Hayward informed that Russo's was still seeking permits. Pallotta McDermott asked Hayward to contact Scott for information on the permit schedule for the Russo's parking project.

Martin requested that Smart Growth information be sent to the Planning Board. Pallotta McDermott noted that the education of the Planning Board about Smart Growth was through Magoon.

2009 Spring MACC Conference – Rose and Fairbairn briefly reported on workshops they attended.

Agent's Report

Hayward informed that he would be conducting an Asian Longhorned Beetle Forum on March 16, 2009 at 7pm in the Town Council Chambers.

Hayward reported that Magoon and he attended a preconstruction meeting by the Mass Highway on the Pleasant Street Roadway Reconstruction. Magoon identified the non-participating items – hoods, sumps and trees. Hayward noted that the \$26K for trees will cover the costs for about 62 trees. He will work to identify the locations and will identify the type of trees that are resistant to the Asian Longhorned Beetle.

Wetlands Rules and Regulations

A memo from Hammett of February 25, 2009 was reviewed with suggested changes to the Wetlands Rules and Regulations.

The CC had no objections to recommendations proposed by Hammett except the proposal to allow the replacement of up to 5000 sq. ft. of destroyed wetlands. Hayward and the CC concurred that activities in the wetlands continue to be prohibited since Watertown does not have available land for replacement.

Meeting adjourned at 9:08pm.