



Arlington Conservation Commission

Date: October 3, 2019

Time: 7:30pm

Location: Second floor conference room, Town Hall Annex
730 Massachusetts Ave, Arlington, MA

Minutes

Attendance: *Commission Members David White, Nathaniel Stevens, Chuck Tirone, Mike Nonni, Susan Chapnick, Pam Heidell, and Dave Kaplan; Associate Commissioners Cathy Garnett and Mike Gildesgame; and Conservation Agent Emily Sullivan.*

Discussion on Electing Commission Chair/Vice Chair

The Commission discussed that the Chair and Vice Chair positions. S. Chapnick volunteered to become Commission Chair on January 1, 2020. C. Tirone volunteered to become Commission Vice Chair on January 1, 2020 and stated that he would like to offer his Community Preservation Committee position to another Commissioner. P. Heidell stated that she was interested in becoming the Conservation Commission representative for the Community Preservation Committee, but would like to attend the 10/23/2019 meeting before committing.

N. Stevens asked how long Chair and Vice Chair terms ~~would~~should be. S. Chapnick ~~stated~~suggested that ~~they~~terms would be two years long, with the option to re-elect positions so that the Vice Chair would not be forced into the Chair position. The rRest of the Commission agreed.

N. Stevens stated that he would stay on the Commission as a Commission member when is-someone new ~~became~~becomes Commission Chair on January 1, 2020.

D. White motioned to nominate S. Chapnick as the new Commission Chair starting January 1, 2020, M. Nonni seconded, all were in favor, motion approved.

S. Chapnick motioned to nominate C. Tirone as the new Commission Vice Chair starting January 1, 2020, D. White seconded, all were in favor, motion approved.

Cooke's Hollow CPA Preliminary Application

E. Sullivan called J. Chunglo, Director of Veterans' Services, who was out of town and unable to attend the meeting in person. J. Chunglo summarized the project proposal, which proposes to move the Veteran's Memorial Park, [currently in Arlington Center](#), to Cooke's Hollow and restore the ecological values of the park.

[After discussion about pros and cons of the conceptual design of the project as presented at the meeting, for which the Commission was concerned about the design competing with the naturalization of Mill Brook, the Commission agreed to co-sponsor the project so long as the CPA submittal does not include a conceptual project design, that the project team meets with the Commission twice during project development, and that a full public engagement process for the design is conducted.](#)

~~The Commission agreed to co-sponsor the project so long as the project team met with the Commission twice during project development and conducted a full public engagement process for the design.~~

Criticism that the Conservation Commission process is onerous for residents

The Commission discussed recent criticism of the conservation permitting process. The Commission agreed to invite the Director of Planning and Community Development to a future meeting to discuss criticism and how the goals of various boards and departments align.

The Commission also discussed the lack of maintenance performed on conservation lands. The Commission agreed to work with the Park & Recreation Commission and Parks Division of DPW to establish maintenance programs for conservation lands.

Alternatives Analysis Language

The Commission discussed P. Heidell's memo on alternatives analysis language in other municipalities. The Commission also discussed Town Counsel's memo to the Commission regarding alternatives analyses. The Commission agreed that alternatives analysis language should consider the information provided in the recent Massachusetts Association of Conservation Commissions' publication entitled "Wetlands Buffer Zone Guidebook".

P. Heidell volunteered to write a first draft of the revision for the Commission's alternatives analysis requirements. [P. Heidell stated that C. Garnett's planned evaluation of prior permits requiring vegetative buffers around Spy Pond would be helpful to this effort.](#)~~P. Heidell stated that C. Garnett's study on buffers around Spy Pond would be help the draft revision.~~

Signage for Conservation Areas

E. Sullivan stated that there were a few locations in which conservation signs could be installed (e.g. no mowing, no feeding animals, etc.). E. Sullivan requested permission to commission these signs. [The Commission gave E. Sullivan the authority to obtain and install signage for Conservation Areas.](#)

Notice of Intent: 1167R Massachusetts Ave

DEP File Number: 091-0314

Documents Reviewed:

- 1) *Notice of Intent packet, dated 8/28/2019, revised 9/4/2019*

Resource Areas:

- 1) *Mill Brook*
- 2) *100-Foot Wetlands Buffer/Adjacent Upland Resource Area*
- 3) *200-Foot Riverfront Area*

D. White motioned to continue the hearing to the 10/17/2019 meeting, C. Tirone seconded, all were in favor, motion approved.

Meeting adjourned at 9:27pm.