



## **Arlington Conservation Commission**

Date: December 5, 2019

Time: 7:30pm

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

### **Minutes**

*Attendance: Commission Members Pam Heidell, Dave Kaplan, Mike Nonni, Nathaniel Stevens (Chair), Chuck Tirone, and David White; Associate Commissioners Cathy Garnett and Mike Gildesgame; and Conservation Agent Emily Sullivan. Commissioner Susan Chapnick was not present. Also present were Brad Barber and Robb Morgan.*

### **11/07/2019 and 11/21/2019 Meeting Minutes**

The Commission discussed edits to the draft 11/07/2019 minutes. D. White motioned to approve the minutes as edited, C. Tirone seconded, all were in favor, motion approved.

The Commission discussed edits to the draft 11/21/2019 minutes. D. White motioned to approve the minutes as edited, M. Nonni seconded, all were in favor, motion approved.

### **Assistance for Hearing Impaired at Meetings**

The Commission discussed ways to run meetings to make it easier for hearing impaired people to participate and observe. The Commission agreed that more strategic sitting arrangement for Commissioners and speaking more slowly and clearly would help hearing impaired people. The Commission also agreed that raising a hand to indicate comment and projecting outward while speaking would help to avoid issues.

### **MWRA Contract No. 6544 Exemption**

#### ***Documents Reviewed:***

- 1) Letter from MWRA to the Conservation Commission, Re: MWRA Contract No. 6544 - Cleaning and Lining of Weston Aqueduct Supply Main 3 - Mystic River Reservation, dated 11/13/2019*
  - 2). Project plans entitled Weston Aqueduct Supply Main 3, Contract 1 Rehabilitation of Water Mains Medford, Somerville and Arlington, Drawings No. C-10, C-12, and D-11, dated August 2019*
- P. Heidell recused herself from this discussion.

The Commission reviewed the letter and plan set from MWRA asserting that work to repair a pipeline was exempt. The Commission discussed whether the work described was exempt or whether a Request for Determination of Applicability was necessary. The MWRA project entails cleaning and lining an aqueduct supply main pipe near the Mystic River and Alewife Brook. MWRA would need to excavate around the pipe in two areas, both within the 200-ft Riverfront Area and one within the FEMA 100-year Floodplain.

C. Tirone stated that the burden of proving the exemption is on MWRA, and that it is helpful to invite MWRA to a meeting in situations like this.

S. Chapnick had e-mailed E. Sullivan asking her to determine if the proposed work would impact the newly installed stormwater infrastructure that the Town's Engineering Division coordinated in the same neighborhood. E. Sullivan reported that the Engineering Division confirmed that the infrastructure would not be impacted.

The Commission discussed the following questions, which E. Sullivan will send to MWRA:

1. Is the proposed disturbance limited to the identified access pits?
2. How will trees and vegetation be impact by the proposed work? The Commission requests that a fence is placed around the dripline of any trees in the lay down area(s).
3. Is there an identified parking location or equipment storage location for the work? Any stockpiled soil should be covered with a tarp if stored for more than 30 days.
4. Where will dewatering occur?
5. Who will be Resident Engineer onsite during the work and will he/she be onsite for the entire project duration? The Commission requests that all reports from the Resident Engineer be shared with the Commission.
6. The Commission requests that all project specifications be sent to the Commission when the project is put out to bid.

The Commission also requests that a representation from MWRA attend the 12/19 meeting.

### **C. Garnett's Spy Pond Vegetated Buffer Project**

C. Garnett updated the Commission on her vegetated buffer project. The project will include going through 5-10 years of historic Commission files to assess approved projects along Spy Pond that included installing a vegetated buffer. The goal of this work is to create educational resources for residents along Spy Pond to encourage more vegetated buffers. What those educational resources could be will depend on what information Ms. Garnett is able to find, but might include a brochure or a sample/template permit application.

B. Barber suggested that the project should separate bank stabilization work and vegetated buffer work.

### **Water Bodies Working Group**

D. White updated the Commission on the Water Bodies Working Group meeting that occurred on 12/5/2019. During the meeting, the Working Group discussed: McClennen Park Detention Basins, the Spy Pond lake management report, C. Garnett's vegetated buffer project, the Working Group's annual report, the warrant article for FY2021 funding, and how to better coordinate treatment in the Mystic Lakes.

### **Request for Determination of Applicability: 37 Sunnyside Ave**

#### ***Documents Reviewed:***

- 1) *RDA Packet for 37 Sunnyside Ave, Arlington, MA, prepared by Applicant Robb Morgan, dated 11/20/2019.*

#### ***Resource Areas:***

- 1) *Alewife Brook*
- 2) *200-ft Riverfront Area*

Applicant R. Morgan presented the project, which proposes to construct an entry porch and back deck over existing impervious surfaces in the 200-ft Riverfront Area. The proposed work would not increase impervious surface area onsite or change stormwater runoff patterns.

S. Chapnick submitted questions to E. Sullivan prior to the hearing in anticipation of not being able to attend the hearing. S. Chapnick asked whether the Commission was comfortable accepting the hand-drawn plan proposal, which showed the work outside of the floodplain. P. Heidell stated that although the plan was hand-drawn, the work was clearly outside of the floodplain per the Town's online floodplain map and therefore the plan was acceptable. S. Chapnick asked if the Applicant would consider removing concrete as part of this project, to reduce the amount of impervious surface onsite. Applicant R. Morgan stated that at this time removing concrete was not part of the proposed project (though something he desired to do in the future) and that removing concrete was not necessary under the state and local regulations.

D. White motioned to issue a negative determination that does not confirm the resource area delineations provided in the application packet and that the work does not require a Notice of Intent although in a jurisdictional wetland resource area (Positive Determination 2b and Negative Determination 2), C. Tirone seconded, all were in favor, motion approved.

### **Veteran's Memorial Park at Cooke's Hollow CPA Application**

E. Sullivan updated the Commission that the CPA application would be rescinded and that Health and Humans Services would instead request capital funding for a public engagement planning effort for the relocation of Veteran's Memorial Park.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00pm.