

MELROSE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

September 17, 2009

The Meeting Came to Order at 7:30 p.m.

Draft Meeting Minutes

Present from the commission were: Kevin Anderson, Richard Doucette, Kate Hickey, Steve Locke, Susan Murphy and Joseph Nerden.

Absent from the commission was: Keith Fleming

Present from the public was: Michael Nguyen.

MINUTES

The July 9, 2009, will be held and reviewed at the next meeting.

VICTORIAN FAIR UPDATE

The commission passed out some of the new trail maps at the fair. The winner of the raffle for a \$25 gift card to New England Wild Flower is Sandra Pascal, 50 Lynn Fells Parkway. Chairman Murphy is going to contact Ms. Pascal. Kathy is going to make-up a contact and e-mail list from the names collected at the fair. The Commission passed the hat to collect the \$25 prize money for the raffle. City funds were not used.

CASSIDY LAND SWAP

Commissioner Nerden recused himself from the matter. Mr. Cassidy, the owner of 61 Clifton Park, is giving the commission approximately 11, 000 square feet of land in exchange for approximately 1,441 square feet of Conservation land This land swap would help Mr. Cassidy so that his lot would be squared off with his property, making it look more conforming. This land swap would not create a buildable lot. At the Commission's last meeting, members in attendance unanimously voted to agree with the land swap. Mr. Nerden abstained due to the possibility of an appearance of a conflict of interest. There was a concern that the vote (3 members only) would not satisfy the requirement of a unanimous vote of the Commission, consequently another vote was taken so there would be no question.

MOTION

Chairman Murphy motioned to approve the land swap of parcel C2 for parcel B2 of the ANR Plan dated April 1, 2009, Greenwood Street, seconded by Commissioner Anderson. Voted: 4-0, Commissioner Nerden abstained from the vote.

**9 BOW STREET
RDA – Deck & Fence**

Mr. Nguyen was before the Commission on 9/3/09 regarding a plan to install a fence(blocking off a wet area to the back of the property) and to construct a 17' x 15' deck off the back of his house. Members visited the site prior to this meeting. Mr. Nguyen told the commission that the grass is very high near the wetlands and he would like to put in a solid wood fence instead of a chain link fence to separate the area. Commissioner Nerden inquired as to why a wood fence instead of the chain link. Mr. Nguyen feels that it will look nicer. There will be a gate for access to the wetlands. Mr. Nguyen also mentioned the increased mosquitoes because of the water, and Commissioner Doucette mentioned that you can purchase at a garden center a “donut” that can be put into the wetlands and that it will help kill the mosquito eggs, without harming the wetlands other wildlife or humans.

There were no members of the public present for the hearing.

MOTION

Commissioner Anderson motioned to close the public hearing, seconded by Commissioner Doucette, all in favor.

MOTION

Chairman Murphy moved to issue a Negative 3 Determination with no additional conditions, Commissioner Anderson seconded the motion, all in favor.

MT. HOOD FEASIBILITY STUDY

The Parks Department has begun talks about installing an athletic field at Mt. Hood. The commission reviewed the plans. There are many pros and cons to an athletic field being put in this area. The city does need more athletic fields and this is one of the few places large enough to install such a facility however, the area that has been selected is close to trails, certified and uncertified vernal pools and there would be much disturbance in the area during construction. The commission was unsure of when the next Park’s meeting was going to be regarding this matter.

HYDRO-RAKING OF FIRST POND

The Parks Department wants to do something about the invasive plants in First Pond and is considering hydro-raking. Chairman Murphy will be attending the next Parks meeting on October 5, 2009, to explain the process or answer any other questions she may be able to help with. Commissioner Doucette will check to see if he can attend the October 5, 2009, Parks meeting also. It would save some money if the two projects, First Pond and Towner’s Pond could be hydro-raked at the same time. The Parks Department would like to do something now or in the spring because the invasive plants are interfering with the water intake for their irrigation system.

CLEAN WATER GRANT – 604 (B)

Chairman Murphy has applied for a Clean Water Grant but has not heard anything yet.

RESIGNATION

Meredith Beauchesne resigned from her part-time position as Administrative Assistant for the Conservation Commission after seven years and will be pursuing other full-time employment. A letter was submitted to the commission.

ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

MOTION

Commissioner Anderson motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 p.m., seconded by Commissioner Nerden, all in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,

Meredith L. Beauchesne, Secretary