

**Melrose Conservation Commission Minutes**  
**October 1, 2009**  
**Mayor's Conference Room**

Present: Ms. Murphy Susan Murphy, Kevin Anderson, Joe Nerden, and Kate Hickey  
Staff present: Kathy Morgan, Conservation Agent

Absent: Richard Doucette, Keith Fleming and Steve Locke

Ms. Murphy called the meeting to order at 7:35 pm

**Correspondence:**

Friends of the Fells Newsletter  
MyRWA memo

**Invoices**

A bill for secretarial services from Meredith Beauchesne for 9/1 - 9/24/09 in the amount of \$82.50.

**Mr. Nerden moved to pay the invoice from Meredith Beauchesne in the amount of \$82.50, seconded by Mr. Anderson, and voted: unanimously.**

A bill from Staples for the printing of the trail map in the amount of \$284.00.

**Mr. Nerden moved to pay the bill from Staples in the amount of \$284.00, seconded by Ms. Hickey, and voted: unanimously.**

**Minutes**

Ms. Murphy will review the July 9<sup>th</sup> minutes for remaining edits. Members received draft copies of September 3<sup>rd</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup> minutes for review and comment.

**Discussion**

Mr. Shippie, owner of 161 Boston Rock Road, came to the meeting hoping to speak with members about the situation at his property. Ms. Murphy explained that she and Kathy had gone out to the site after getting a complaint of work that was going on at the site. There was a black pipe going out into the wetlands, a pump in a bucket and it looked as though the area had been recently partially excavated. The pipe ran through Mr. Shippie's yard where it discharged into the street. Mr. Shippie was sent a letter telling him to stop the activity that was going on and not to run the pump. Mr. Shippie advised Kathy that he had permission to run that pipe from Rick Cantone in the DPW Dept. Kathy spoke with Rick and, subsequently, Kathy, Rick and Mr.

Shippie met out at the site. Mr. Cantone had approved a PVC pipe running from the middle of his yard to drain a wet area in the middle of his yard out into the street. This pipe is 70' from the back wetland and is allowed. Mr. Shippie got rid of the black pipe, bucket, pump and other material that was back there. Mr. Shippie would like to discuss what he can do with the depression in his back yard to keep it from accumulating water from the other neighbors. Mr. Shippie said he filled some time ago, then his neighbor filled his yard creating a circular problem with ponding water for Mr. Shippie. Ms. Murphy explained that now that the city has an Ordinance, isolated wetlands are protected. Ms. Murphy suggested that members visit the site and then talk about it again at another meeting.

## Public Hearings

### 99 Penny Road (217-0176) (grading & driveway for a single family house)

Paul Zanotti was present to represent the applicant and is also co-owner of the project. Ms. Murphy heard that several abutters were not notified. After reviewing the abutter list that the applicant used, it was found that they were not on the list. Kathy will talk with the Assessing office and see where the problem lies. It was the consensus of the Commission to go forward with the Public Hearing and continue the hearing to October 15<sup>th</sup> so that abutters can be properly noticed. If new members of the public appear at the continued hearing, we will need to repeat the content of this hearing.

Mr. Zanotti explained that the project involves Lot C of a three lot subdivision. The lot is located on the corner of Penny Rd. and Patriot Way. The only work being done within the 100' buffer to the wetland across Penny Rd., is grading on the lot and a portion of the driveway. The new single family house will get water and sewage service from Patriot Way. They plan to put filter fabric over the catch basins.

Members that visited the site told Mr. Zanotti that the storm water management areas, drainage swales and catch basins need work done to them to function properly. Mr. Nerden admitted pictures into the record taken at the site on 9/29/09, of debris in the swales and stone dust within the rip rap. Ms. Murphy said that there is no indication that drainage flows between the detention basin and the swale to the left of Patriot Way – it is not on the plan and it was not visible in the field. Members are very concerned with the way the runoff comes off the site. The area already slopes to the wetland and the contours proposed with this new house are very steep. The driveway will have a 2% slope. Mr. Zanotti said that the catch basins were cleaned within the last couple of months. Ms. Murphy said that runoff comes down Patriot Way, by-passes the drainage structures, and runs across Penny Road, and into the wetland. She mentioned the problems that the site had when the one existing house on Patriot Way was built. She told of how haybales were move to allow construction access onto the site and not replaced. The land wasn't stabilized until the weeds grew in. Mr. Zanotti suggested extending haybales down to 110 Penny Rd. He also said that roof runoff would be going into drywells. Mr. Nerden would like to know more about the soils for the proposed drywell; and if the well will actually work. Mr.

Zanotti stated that construction access would be off Penny Road. Mr. Anderson suggested having haybales wrap around Penny Rd. into Patriot Way along the work area. Members suggested, because of the slope of the site, to access the site through Lot B, from Patriot Way, higher up the incline and then come down into the site.

Ralph Moore, 39 Dexter Rd., asked, what happens after they leave? He said there is a tremendous amount of runoff that comes off that site and this project will only add to the problem by adding pavement. The property across the street gets the impact of all the runoff onto her (Mrs. Tao, who was present at the meeting) property. He said the holding ponds are not adequate and there are no catch basins on Penny Road. Ms. Murphy said that the runoff from Patriot Way is not going into the detention basin. Mr. Zanotti said that once the roadway is crowned properly, it will go in. Ms. Murphy asked what can be done until the road is finished?

Lin Hong Tao, 110 Penny Rd told of how her back yard fills up with water and silt comes onto her yard from Patriot Way, killing her grass. Mr. Zanotti suggested checking further down stream to see if there are any blockages.

Mr. Albanese of 3 Nordic Way said that he is in favor of the project and finishing the subdivision. It was noted that runoff is bypassing the catch basin at Nordic Way as well. Mr. Albanese stated this was because the City has not cleaned the catch basins. Ms. Murphy asked if the street was accepted. Mr. Albanese was not sure if his street (Nordic Way) is an approved street. If not, who should be cleaning the catch basins? Ms. Murphy said to call the city. If it has not been accepted, the neighbors will have to call someone to come and clean the catch basins.

Things for the applicant to take care of prior to the next meeting:

1. Notice to abutters - look into who didn't get noticed.
2. A construction sequence from beginning to end.
3. More detail of drywells - what are the soils like?
4. Piping under Patriot Way, open ends.
5. Clean existing stone swales, roadway drainage, and storm water runoff.
6. Explain the plan for getting runoff to go into the drainage system.

**Mr. Nerden moved to continue the Public Hearing to October 15, 2009, at 7:45, seconded by Mr. Anderson, and voted: unanimously.**

### **Burnett Street (Grove St. to Granite St.)(217-0175) drain line repairs**

Matt Shuman, from DPW was present for the project. A scope of the area from Grove St. through Burnett St. and onto Granite St. was done and revealed some problems in the drain pipes. Some of the lines were collapsed and there is debris blocking the lines. Matt explained that the outfall at Grove St. collects runoff from Grove, Burnett & Granite Streets. He said the work will not change the elevations in the area. PVC pipes with rubber couplings/clamps will be

used. There is a sag in the pipe at Burnett & Granite and the pipe is pitched the wrong way so that drainage is getting backed up. Members asked Matt if a pipe inlet, for connecting at a later date, could be left at 17 Burnett St., the location of the sag in the pipe. Matt was concerned about the elevation when asked to leave a stub to connect to at 17 Burnett St., but thought it could be done. He was concerned the slab would be too low, but members said being too low shouldn't be a problem. Matt will look further into the outfall pipe at the corner of Grove and Burnett Streets. He could temporarily put sandbags in place to inspect further. Members said being too low shouldn't be a problem. Mr. Nerden thanked Matt and the DPW for all their cooperation. The special conditions were reviewed.

**Ms. Hickey moved to issue an Order of Conditions for Burnett St. (Grove St. to Granite St.) subject to the special conditions discussed, seconded by Mr. Nerden, voted: 4-0.**

**Other issues**

Mr. Nerden used aerial photos from the Mass GIS data base to create a map showing the area over Towners Pond and First Pond so that members could familiarize themselves of details concerning the proposed athletic field.

**Mr. Nerden moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:30 pm. Ms. Hickey seconded the motion. Voted: unanimously.**

**Approved \_\_\_\_\_ Dated \_\_\_\_\_**