

Melrose Conservation Commission
Minutes for October 29, 2009

Present: Susan Murphy, Kevin Anderson, Kate Hickey, and Richard Doucette
Absent: Joe Nerden, Keith Fleming & Steve Locke

Chair called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM

Minutes

Mr. Doucette moved to approve the minutes of September 3, 2009, September 17, 2009, and October 1, 2009 as amended; and voted: unanimously in favor.

Correspondence:

- Notification of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act FFY 09 604b Water Quality Management Planning Program
(Ms. Murphy advised members that Melrose was 1 out of 11 applicants and unfortunately the proposal was denied.)
- Letter from National Grid advising that a herbicide application for vegetation management occurred on a National Grid right-of-way unannounced.

Discussion:

11 Lebannon Street

The homeowner has applied for a building permit to construct a garage and pave an area behind it. It was questionable as to whether there are wetlands to the back of the property that might link to the wetland area behind 27 Lebannon St. The homeowner hired Hayes Engineering to make a determination. A letter was received from Libby Wallis, a wetland scientist with Hayes Engineering, stating she found no indications of wetlands on the property.

Public Hearing

Hydro-raking at Towners Pond and First Pond - RDA

Joan Bell, Director of the Parks & Recreation Dept., was present. First Pond, located at Mt. Hood, has been taken over by fanwort and causing problems with the irrigation system. They have used herbicides in the past, but feel hydro-raking would be a more effective method of ridding the pond of the invasive fanwort. The scope of work submitted by Parks & Rec. mentioned that along with the hydro-raking, they want to remove some sludge. It was decided that the only sludge that will be removed will be what comes up with the vegetation. Members asked what the Parks & Recreation procedures were for using fertilizers at the golf course. Ms. Bell advised members that she has talked with the crew about the use of fertilizer and

cleaning equipment in any areas of concern. Hydro-raking at the two ponds requires the coordination of Parks & Rec. and the Conservation Commission and setting up the day for a truck from DPW and the compost yard. Additional funds might be needed from the two departments for a front-end loader for the removal of the material to the compost yard.

Ms. Bell advised the Commission that a youth group, along with a landscape engineer, have volunteered to scrape the infield clay and then level it back down at Lewis Monk, located across from the city yard. She said the area will be stabilized at the end of the day. Members had no issues with the work.

When asked about recent discussions on the Feasibility Study, Ms. Bell stated that the Committee hasn't gotten together except for a special meeting, which wasn't to discuss any new information. She did mention that a Wind Feasibility Study is also in the works. Mt. Hood is under consideration. They are looking into the FAA towers and what requirements go along with it.

Other business

77 Swains Pond Ave.: Kathy spoke with Mr. Hancock and was advised that he should have the work outlined in the Enforcement Order issued to him in June 09 completed by the end of the first week in November '09. Ms. Murphy will write a letter to Mr. Hancock asking for his progress and the Commission will make a determination as to whether he is in compliance with the Enforcement Order at their November 19, 2009, meeting.

36 Swains Pond Ave.: Kathy advised members that the parcel of land being donated to the City, to become the care and custody of the Conservation Commission, is still under investigation. The Alderman have requested that it be researched for any hazardous material on the site. A call was made to a firm that deals with completing 21E hazardous waste sites to obtain a quote for soil testing at the site.

Adjourn

Mr. Doucette moved to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Anderson; and voted unanimously in favor. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 19, 2009.

Approval _____ Dated _____