



CITY OF MELROSE

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

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MELROSE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Minutes for Thursday, March 19, 2009

Mayor's Conference Room

The meeting came to order at 7:35 p.m.

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

Present from the public were: Craig Bennett

MOTION

Commissioner Doucette moved to continue the public hearing for the proposed Boardman Avenue subdivision, seconded by Commissioner Anderson, voted: unanimously.

The public hearing for the Boardman Avenue subdivision will be continued until April 2, 2009 as there was an error in the public notice as to the location of the proposed subdivision. Notices will be resent for the April 2, 2009, hearing.

ONGOING MATTER

Update on 77 Swains Pond Avenue situation. The Commission received correspondence from the wetlands consultant hired by the landowner. The consultant has visited the site and will be providing a sketch of the resource area shortly; and will begin work on a restoration plan. The Commission has been informed that the Board of Appeals denied the landowner's appeal and he must apply for a special permit from the Planning Board under the Slope Protection Ordinance.

NEW BUSINESS

The Chair proposed the creation of subcommittees to facilitate greater focus on the core mission. Proposed subcommittees: 1) Trails & Maintenance; 2) Water Quality; and

3) Open Space. The subcommittees will meet on their own schedules and come up with priorities and project ideas. They will report their activities to the Full Commission at regular meetings. Any Commissioner can participate on any or all of the subcommittees.

The Trails & Maintenance subcommittee members will be comprised of Commissioners Fleming (Chair), Anderson, Doucette, Hickey and Locke. Commissioner Locke reported that he was planning on performing trail maintenance at Flagg Acres this weekend, including clearing and flagging the green trail. Commissioner Anderson offered to set up and maintain a volunteer contact e-mail list for projects. Commissioner Hickey is working on finalizing the Flagg Acres trail map. Commissioner Locke volunteered to walk the site and edit the existing map to conform to the actual trails. Commissioner Hickey also mentioned that we need to mark trail heads and parking on the map.

The Water Quality subcommittee members will be Commissioners Murphy (Chair), Anderson and Nerden. Commissioner Murphy wants to focus on Ell Pond issues. The Clean Water Act is being funded through the federal stimulus package to do water quality studies. She would like to consider applying for a grant to do an updated diagnostic and feasibility study on Ell Pond. She also wants the subcommittee to explore options for Towners Pond. There are ongoing concerns regarding the efficacy of the annual chemical treatments, although hydroraking is significantly more expensive. The tightening budgets, continuing to fund this expenditure may not make sense from both an environmental and fiscal perspective. The Commission discussed soliciting feedback from abutters and the public regarding the future of the pond. The Commissioners discussed soliciting feedback from abutters and the public regarding the future of the pond. The Commissioners decided to discuss this at the next meeting.

The Open Space subcommittee members will be Commissioners Lock (Chair) and Murphy, the subcommittee's goal will be to look into ways in which the Commission can expand the open space in Melrose as well as ensure the protected status of the land already under the Commission's control.

MOTION

Commissioner Doucette moved to re-elect Chairwoman Murphy to position of Chair, seconded by Commissioner Anderson, voted: unanimously.

Commissioner Murphy was re-elected Chair. The members of the Commission expressed their deep appreciation for all the hard work Commissioner Murphy has done as Chair.

MOTION

Commissioner Anderson moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:35 p.m., seconded by Commissioner Anderson, voted: unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Steve Locke, Secretary