

**MELROSE CONSERVATION COMMISSION
September 4, 2008**

Meeting Minutes

The meeting called to order at 7:40 PM

Present from the Commission were: Kevin Anderson, Richard Doucette, Keith Fleming, Steve Locke, Susan Murphy and Joseph Nerden.

Present from the public were: Darcy Green, Jeff Green, Dana Jewell, Kacey Morris, Joe Morris, Peter Mortimer, Bryan Vanderhoof, Erica Vanderhoof and Mr. Venturo.

Minutes

There were no minutes available for review.

Correspondence

A list of correspondence was reviewed and will attached to the minutes in the file.

Invoices

Commissioner Doucette motioned to approve and pay the invoice in the amount of \$2,000 to Applied Geographics, seconded by Commissioner Nerden, voted unanimously.

Commissioner Doucette motioned to approve and pay the invoice in the amount of \$489 to MACC, seconded by Commissioner Anderson, voted unanimously.

New Flood Gate

Dana Jewell was present and passed out pictures of the new flood gate at Ell Pond. Mr. Jewell mentioned that he felt kids would be tempted to throw the rocks on the bank. Commissioner Anderson did mention that the rack is working well and that a professional job had been done. Chairman Murphy told Mr. Jewell that the Commission would review the project closer when a Certificate of Compliance is requested.

**Certificate of Compliance
28 Rudolf Street**

Chairman Murphy passed around a letter and a plan from Bob Beshara. Drainage is still an issue at the site. The city would like to see some solid drainage, a swale with rip-rap and repairs to the road. The idea is for the water to come and disperse across the hillside. commission, the builder has to fix some drainage problems. The city would like to see

like a spreader. The Commission still has concerns if the water, when it flows, will still wash out the road. The plan does not call for a level spreader but four to six inch stone.

88 Granite Street

Mr. Ventura asked to speak to the Commission regarding 17 Burnett St and 88 Granite St. and the drainage issues in the neighborhood which he feels is a result of the new house at 17 Burnett St., particularly the way it was constructed. Mr. Ventura submitted a letter from his attorney and a petition from the neighborhood to Chairman Murphy. Mr. Ventura asked the commission if they could force the new homeowners to fix the problem. Mr. Ventura believes that Mr. Gougeon did not build the home to compensate for the proper water storage at elevation 102. Mr. Gougeon dug a big hole that Mr. Ventura says fills and stinks and has caused a major mosquito problem in the neighborhood. The growth at the property is horrible. There were no wetlands violations on this property so a Certificate of Compliance was issued. Chairman Murphy told the public that Mr. Gougeon had come before the Commission and had filed a Notice of Intent to make underground flood storage and that the board approved that.

Bryan Vanderhoof of 80 Granite Street stated that because of the water current, he has replaced his fence in his yard three times. When his yard looks dry, you can dig down and still get water. Mr. Vanderhoof has contacted the city engineer about this problem.

Jeff Green of 76 Granite Street stated that the house at 17 Burnett Street acts like a dam and a holding pond and that the wall is making it worse.

Joe Morris of 68 Granite Street stated that the weeds, growth and wild animals are becoming a problem in the neighborhood.

Commissioner Doucette enforced the fact that DEP superseded the Melrose Conservation Commission and that their concerns would have to be addressed to the DEP and that the drainage problem may also be a neighborhood issue.

Alderman Mortimer addressed the Commission about the ongoing flooding in the neighborhood. The culvert under Burnett is blocked up and water runs over Burnett. All of the water meets at Bow and Bow Street acts like a bowl. The areas have not been cleaned out in years and that this is a performance issue not a design issue. It was suggested that all departments should meet.

Chairman Murphy agrees that it is a bigger issue than the yard. Chairman Murphy suggested that topo could be used to take a look at the backyards in the neighborhood to make an assessment. Chairman Murphy suggested that an escape had to be created for the water and to possibly fill the hole and put in a pipe. Chairman Murphy stated that the catch basin is higher than elevation 102 and that an outlet should be created. Chairman Murphy stated that the commission can't force the new owners to do any work. Chairman Murphy stated that she would contact the new owners with a letter and, hopefully, they will respond. Chairman Murphy told the public that this issue would be

revisited at the first October meeting. Chairman Murphy stated that there are no violations on this property and that this would have to be taken up with the city engineer and that Mr. Venturo could speak to his attorney. Chairman Murphy will also contact Bob Beshara, the City Engineer, to see if he can add some feedback to the problems in the neighborhood.

Commissioner Anderson suggested that maybe a working session could be held with the Conservation Commission, the City Engineer and the homeowners to explain the history of the property.

Trail Map

The draft Trail Map was distributed and reviewed by the commissioners. The steps forward would be to finalize the map and to agree on what the final product should look like. The next phase will be collecting trail data. Commissioner Locke is going to do a walk through and doesn't feel that GPS is needed due to the size. Trail data is going to be received from the Friends of the Fells as well. Commissioner Locke offered to contact Mt. Hood. The commissioners were asked to e-mail comments and ideas to Commissioner Nerden and another working session will be held.

Lakes & Pond Grant

The Lakes & Pond Grant that the commission has is for \$10,000. The commission is still undecided on how to best utilize this money. Commissioner Nerden did call Waltham to see if he could get a price for what it cost for them to vacuum their pond and will follow-up with them again. Chairman Murphy is going to call Aquatic Control to get an estimate from them. Commissioner Doucette is going to re-read the grant and will try to summarize the application to get a better idea of the parameters of the grant. It was agreed that this issue would be revisited.

Upcoming Grant Opportunities

Chairman Murphy is looking into applying for a Recreational Trail Grant Program for signage and trail building up by the Hoover School. Commissioner Doucette mentioned Knox Park would be a great spot as well. It is used for rock climbing. It is hard but short. Flag Acres did receive a grant about 12 years ago. The due date for this application is October 1, 2008. Chairman Murphy is going to send around copies of the application. Another grant that Chairman Murphy is looking into is the Urban and Community Forestry Grant Program. This due date is November 1, 2008. Chairman Murphy is going to forward this application to Commissioner Doucette for review.

Other Business

Rotondi Property

The Rotondi property is up for sale. This piece of land is very questionable and do not know if it is even a developable piece of land. It is not contiguous with the conservation land. It is wet and mostly meadow. Former Commissioner Pecci had been in contact with the owners and had possibly been on the property. Commissioner Locke is going to look into this matter more.

Inquiry

A member of the Planning Board owns a piece of property that abuts conservation land on Clifton Park. It is a non-conforming lot. The owners would like to change their lot lines because the lot does not meet current zoning setbacks. The homeowners would like to take a piece of the conservation land. The commissioners all agreed that the commission was not interested and that it would be a long process to go through. Chairman Murphy will contact them.

55 Mt. Vernon

An e-mail was received from a neighbor who would like to adopt a conservation parcel. It was agreed that Chairman Murphy would write the neighbor a letter. The neighbor can remove trash, old wood that is on the ground and may plant native species. The neighbor cannot mow, loom or seed the property. If there is or are any particular trees that need to be cut down, the neighbor may flag the tree and call the commission. Any removal of any tree will be approved by the commission.

Public Hearing –

Ell Pond Park, Mosaic Stepping Stones

The Applicant did not show-up for this evening's meeting. The commission agreed to continue the hearing for the September 18, 2008.

MOTION

Commissioner Fleming voted to continue the public hearing for Ell Pond Park until September 18, 2008, seconded by Commissioner Anderson, voted unanimously.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 10:15 p.m.

MOTION

**Commissioner Anderson motioned to adjourn at 10:15 p.m., seconded by
Commissioner Doucette, voted unanimously.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Meredith L. Beauchesne, Secretary