

Melrose Conservation Commission
October 16, 2008
Mayor's Conference Room

Present: Commissioners:
Chair, Susan Murphy
Joe Nerden
Richard Doucette
Keith Fleming
Kevin Anderson

Staff: Kathy Morgan, Conservation Agent

Minutes

Members were given copies of Draft Minutes for September 4th and September 18th to review for approval at the next meeting.

Correspondence

MACC Lakes & Ponds Association - Susan will review further.

Email correspondence from Marc Bergeron and Keith Fleming on identified native species at 240 Howard Street project.

55 Mt. Vernon Ave - Commissioner Doucette will follow up with the abutter in response to conversations about adopting the conservation land abutting his property.

Certificate of Compliance

20 Maple Terrace (217-0147) The Order of Conditions was issued for the demolition of the house and new single family house with sewer line installed along the roadway. Commissioner Murphy visited the site and she reported that except for the installation of a retaining wall in place of a slope, she feels the work was done satisfactorily and recommends issuing a Certificate of Compliance.

Chairman Murphy moved to issue a Certificate of Compliance. Commissioner Nerden seconded the motion. Voted: unanimously.

Public Hearings

Ell Pond Mosaic Tile Project - RDA

No one was present for the project and the project is still not ready to move forward.

**Chairman Murphy moved to continue the Public Hearing to 11/20/08 at 7:45 PM.
Commissioner Doucette seconded the motion. Voted: unanimously.**

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Discussion

28 Rudolf Street

Chairman Murphy's draft letter to Mr. Giannelli, the owner, dated 10/16/08 was reviewed by members. The letter states that it appears that the City Engineer has approved the latest plan submitted by Mr. Giannelli and since this was the only open issue prior to the issuance of a Certificate of Compliance, once the drainage is completed to the satisfaction of the City Engineer in accordance with the plan submitted, a Certificate of Compliance will be issued from the Commission. Kathy will insert the date of the latest plan prior to mailing out the letter to Mr. Giannelli.

Discussion: Mr. Doucette commented that if the drainage fails later, there won't be an open file. Chairman Murphy said it will then be the City's responsibility to correct the problem. Commissioner Doucette said that Mr. Giannelli hasn't been helpful so far in correcting the problem, so may be it will be better if the work gets done under the City's jurisdiction.

Chairman Murphy moved to issue the letter to Mr. Giannelli with corrections and copy the City Engineer and Robert Van Campen, City Solicitor. Commissioner Doucette seconded the motion. Voted: unanimously.

Granite/Burnette St.

Chairman Murphy's letter to Mr. Ventura (the owner of 88 Granite St.) dated 10/16/08 was reviewed by members. This letter is in response to Mr. Ventura's letter submitted at the September 18, 2008, meeting. Mr. Nerden asked that the words "commenced or be completed" be added.

Deleted: .

Chairman Murphy did speak with the owner of 17 Burnette St. They haven't started the project because of the cost. One of the neighbor's, Mr. Priestly, has commented that he put in a garage with no footings and has had issues since the house at 17 Burnett St. was built and may have issues after the work is done. The owner of 17 Burnette is planning to install an aerating fountain in the Spring if he does not start the full project of installing a pipe out into the street to connect to the catch basin.

Chairman Murphy moved to issue the letter to Mr. Ventura with changes. Commissioner Nerden seconded the motion. Voted: unanimously.

Trail Map

The Mt. Hood plans were received from Joan Bell and copies will be made for members. Joan Bell and Phil Friel, and the City of Melrose Biking club are eager to go forward with the trail project.

Trail Maintenance

Members discussed how to move forward. They felt before speaking with Bob Beshara, the City Engineer, they would need to nail down the trail and then scope out the work to be done. Commissioner Fleming mentioned that inline with the discussion with Bob Boisselle, he isn't in favor of using a bobcat to scrape the trails but would rather have a door size trail. There was some discussion about doing work on the Hoover School trails so that the trails could be used for educational "units" on ponds. Chairman Murphy says the trails there are indistinguishable now and too steep for a bobcat. They may like to enlist someone who knows trails to review the trails. Mr. Nerden said that the Knox Trail, done by Alderman, Bob Boisselle, was established 10 years ago and they dropped small trees and used woodchips they got from DPW. He feels the Commission should first start with defining the trails and later on maybe do some terracing if necessary.

Commissioner Fleming volunteered to steer head going forward and scheduled a trail walk for 8:00 AM on Sunday at the Hoover School, to meet in the parking lot.

Middle School Wetlands Replication

Chairman Murphy advised members that the Middle School is looking into getting a Certificate of Compliance. There is a question of whether the replication area will become or stay a wetland. She said there is wetland growth around the detention pond, but not enough documenting of wetland plants. Commissioner Doucette asked if they know what to do? Chairman Murphy said the person doing the work might not know how to fill out the reports. She said the area designated for the replication is too high and dry and plants are questionable. She said there is some red maple and purple loosestrife. She suggested that maybe there are enough plants around the detention pond. Possibly Bob Beshera could do the work over and dig down further. Commissioner Anderson asked if the replication area is taking on the road runoff. Chairman Murphy said no, but may take on emergency overflow. More information is needed.

Adjourn

Commissioner Nerden moved to adjourn at 8:25 PM Chair seconded the motion. Voted: unanimously.

Approved: _____ Dated _____