



CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
JOSEPH A. CURTATONE
MAYOR

MAY 23, 2017

MINUTES

MEETING AT SOMERVILLE CITY HALL
93 HIGHLAND AVENUE
3RD FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM
7:00 PM

Meeting notes prepared by Vanessa Boukili, based on a recording of the meeting.

Commission Members in attendance: Rachel Borgatti, Owen Wartella, David Turin, Michael Fager (acting Chair)

Commission Members absent: Jamie Lefkowitz, Mathias Neuber

Others in Attendance: Gene Crouch (VHB), David Webster (FRIT), Matt Devlin (AECOM), Thomas Valton (DCR), Aladdine Joroff, Phillip Baraona, Dani Alexander, Oliver Sellers-Garcia (Director of Sustainability and Environment)

Staff: Vanessa Boukili (Conservation Agent)

Michael Fager brought the meeting to order at 7:05 followed by introductions.

Unfinished Business (7:05 pm):

1) Public Hearing continuation: Notice of Intent for DCR Mystic River Outfall Maintenance (8:50 pm).

Applicant: Nick Gove (DCR)

Representative: Matt Devlin (AECOM)

Project Location: Mystic River State Reservation, Somerville

DEP file #287-0059

- Request: System wide maintenance and repair program for outfalls within Mystic River Reservation. As outfalls are currently in state of disrepair, the proposed maintenance will attenuate flows prior to discharging into the Mystic River.
- Jurisdiction: Inland Bank, Land Under Waterbodies and Waterways, Riverfront Area
- Documents Presented: (1) Revised NOI Document (DCR Somerville Mystic River Outfall Project - Revised NOI.pdf)
- Presentation (Matt Devlin and Tom Valton) and Discussion:



- Completed site visit to reassess number of outfalls and tree removals.
- Originally were going to repair 5 outfalls, now only 2. No longer performing maintenance on unidentified outfall #9 – ownership is unknown. No work will be done at outfall #30341, which is not DCR's outfall either (sign on it says "City of Medford", but more likely is train-related, thus MBTA outfall). Outfall 14676 will be decommissioned. There is catchbasin in grass area that receives no input from the road.
- Updated resource area impacts on NOI form accordingly. BLSF - Lowering elevation of the land at the two outfalls, so although it is permanent impact (30 sq ft), there is no loss of flood storage.
- Regarding tree removals – 6 trees will be cut down (2 Black Locust, 1 Crabapple, 1 Black Cherry, 2 Red Maples [worst case scenario]). 6 trees will be replanted (6 Red maples) and 10 shrubs. New trees will be planted along the edge.
- Unidentified outfall #4 will be re-routed to avoid impact on trees, and abandon existing pipe.
- Expected start date: after July, most likely August. Aware of time of year restrictions based on fish migrations, and will not interfere with this.
- Outfall maintenance expected to take 1 day, and 1 other day of work for restoration and planting. Will leave sedimentation and erosion control barriers in place until area is stabilized. Once the site is stabilized, will come back and remove barriers.
- Vote: to close hearing and issue an OOC with the following special condition added to the Commission's standard conditions [motion – Owen, second – David, vote: 4:0:0 @ 7:25 pm]
 - **Special Conditions**
 - All trees that are planted as part of the project must be at least 2 inch-caliper Balled & Burlapped trees. Any planted trees or shrubs that are unhealthy or die within 1 year after planting must be replaced. One-year after planting, the health of the planted trees and shrubs will be approved by the Conservation Commission or its Agent, and any plants in an unsatisfactory state must be replaced with plants of the same species and size.

New Business:

- 1) VHB Water Quality Monitoring Report, April 2017 (**7:27 pm**)
 - Shared results from May 5, 2017 sampling
 - Sampled all six sites
 - A couple of the weirs were overtopping, in which case on outlet side tried to sample in the water coming out of the outlet pipe, not downstream where there was a mix.
 - One sample (station 3) had an increase of 34.72%, which cannot explain. That weir was overtopping, and something likely got stirred up.
 - Looking into a new sampling technique using remote sensing with a logger to automatically sample throughout time. Would want to log TSS and water depth, and so far can only find multi-meter units that would do this (ex. YSI unit), but is cost prohibitive (\$8,000). If can make it work, would require change in protocol. Would come before Commission for approval of protocol change.
 - **Action item: Gene Crouch will send full report and analysis of this sampling.**
 - **Action item: Boukili to send all water quality sampling results to the Engineering Department.**
- 2) Request for Certificate of Compliance for Assembly Square Block 9 and Interim Assembly Line Park (DEP file #287-0052) (**7:41pm**):
 - Completed project as designed and permitted, except for one roadway was built narrower than planned (leaving more greenspace).
 - For Assembly Line Park, more recent OOC supersedes this order (DEP file # 287-0056).



- Some of the land from Block 9 is being exchanged between Federal Realty Investment Trust and landowner at 5 Middlesex Ave. Any future work that ties into the new stormwater outfall pipe, will come before the Commission. Both owners know this.
 - Remaining sedimentation controls (two silt sacks) will stay in place until the site is stabilized.
 - Vote: close discussion and issue COC [motion – Rachel, second – Owen, vote: 4:0:0 @ 8:04 pm]
- 3) Issue OOC for Charlestown Bus Facility – Shoreline Stabilization and Yard Improvements Project (DEP file #287-0058)
- 4) Discussion with Director of the Office of Sustainability and Environment (Oliver Sellers-Garica) about OSE/SustainaVille/ CEUCC projects (**8:08 pm**)
- Office of Sustainability and the Environment: Broad range of projects, including corporate sustainability and community sustainability such as long-range climate planning, special energy programs and sustainability, city services (ex. recycling).
 - Climate Change Planning: baseline data - greenhouse gas inventory and climate change vulnerability study.
 - Climate Change Adaptation Plan – community participation process with working groups, including one focused on greenspace and nature. Plan will focus on adaptation and equity. 1st community outreach meeting on June 26th.
 - SustainaVille –umbrella initiative for climate change. Website has been updated (<http://www.somervillema.gov/sustainaville>).

Updates (8:36):

- 1) Ongoing projects – looked over spreadsheet.
 - **Action item: Boukili to reach out to Dan Driscoll (DCR) about Mystic River Pilling COC**
- 2) Old action items
 - Vanessa – find out more about bylaws
 - Based Vanessa’s research, bylaws still apply.
 - Aladdine Joroff spoke to someone who was on Commission at that time who thinks it’s possible that the bylaws were never adopted.
 - Commission to decide whether to keep bylaws as is or to modify them.
 - **Action item: Continue bylaws discussion next meeting – put on agenda.**

Other Business: (8:52)

- 1) Does Somerville have any Ch.61 Land, Conservation Restrictions, or Agricultural Preservation Restrictions (Re: Somerville Open Space and Recreation Plan)?
 - Re: Conservation Restrictions - DCR owns all of the open space along the Mystic River.
 - No known Ch.61 Land or Agricultural Preservation Restrictions.
- 2) Charles River Canoe and Kayak service – opening canoe/kayak/paddleboard rental service at Blessing of the Bay Boathouse this summer.
- 3) Herring on Mystic River. Mystic River Watershed Association in conjunction with Division of Marine Fisheries - set up video camera on the fish ladder. Can go on website and help count herring (citizen science project). www.MysticHerring.org.

Approval of minutes:

1. Unanimously approved May 9, 2017 minutes with one amendment at 9:01 [motion – Owen, second – Rachel]



Adjourn

1. Motion to adjourn meeting unanimously approved at 9:01 [motion – Rachel, second – Owen]

List of Meeting Documents:

- Agenda
- Minutes May 9th meeting
- DCR Somerville Mystic River Outfall Project - Revised NOI.pdf
- Request for Assembly Row, Block 9 and Interim Line Park Improvements Certificate of Compliance DEP File No. 287-0052
- Assembly Square Water Quality Sampling Data; Sampling Date: May 5, 2017
- Ongoing Project Data Spreadsheet

