



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

TUESDAY, MARCH 27, 2018, 7:00 PM
MINUTES

MEETING AT SOMERVILLE CITY HALL
93 HIGHLAND AVENUE
3RD FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM

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

Commission Members in attendance: Aladdine Joroff, David Turin, Cristina Kennedy, Michael Fager, Owen Wartella, Rachel Borgatti (Chair)

Commission Members absent: Mathias Neuber

Others in Attendance: Gene Crouch (VHB), Ivana Pejatovic (Algonquin Gas Transmission), Jon Bonsall (AGT/ Keegan Werlin), Tammy McGill-Hoyt (AGT), Kara Sliwoski (Solitude Lake Management), Patrick Herron (Mystic River Watershed Association), Tod Rasmussen

Staff: Vanessa Boukili (Conservation Agent)

Rachel Borgatti called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm followed by introductions.

New Business:

- 1) Algonquin J-1 System Natural Gas Pipeline – Casing Removal (maintenance activity) (7:06 pm)
Documents presented: Initial letter and site information (1- SomervilleConCom-Casing Removal work_3-22-2018.pdf), handouts with maps and tree details (Casing Removal Project Handouts_ConCom Mtg_2018-03-22.pdf)
 - Maintenance activity for gas casing, as such is exempt.
 - 26/24 inch gas pipeline. Has casing around it to protect it. Casing is a larger pipe around it. Small section 8.5 feet long which has shorted out against pipe itself, causing interference with cathodic protection system. Need to remove casing.
 - Will enter from pedestrian path at corner of Alewife Brook Parkway and Broadway. Portion of work zone is within 25 foot riverfront area. Contractor to stockpile soil near work area. Presume will go down into groundwater to get under casing so will have dewatering set up.



- Will have to cross 66 inch sewer pipe, 8 feet deep at one location. Currently calculating loading, and will use air bridge across pipe. Using rubber tire excavator. Contractor will use truck mats outside of bike path area.
- Discussed soil stockpiling location. Commissioners asked if can move stockpiling farther away from River. Contractor set up location. Will stockpile on top of mat pad and geotextile fabric.
- Identified two trees that need to be removed, and two additional trees that might need to be removed depending on the work. Commission requested that trees are not removed if at all possible.
- Excavation will be 15 feet wide (maximum). Will only dig as wide and as deep as they have to. Do not have to use sheeting. If need to shore it up will use timber shoring.
- Construction 4-5 day project. Will be timed with outage of the line. Approximately 2.5 to 3 weeks for setup and cleanup.
- Contractor wants to protect site to minimize restoration. Using mats to minimize impacts to the ground. Will have to restore where the hole is dug. Two soil stockpiles because will segregate topsoil from subsoil and then put the soil back after the work. Necessary restoration will be done during the growing season.
- How ensure/guarantee the project goes according to plan?
 - Algonquin has same specifications, guidelines, and requirements for all projects. Same procedure as the Algonquin J-1 System Mystic River Crossing Projects. These documents are submitted to the contractor well in advance, and contractor signs documents that states they will follow the guidelines. Algonquin team will have Environmental Inspectors on site checking work. Contractors are experienced and have worked with Algonquin before.
 - Commission requests additional oversight from Algonquin team to ensure project is done according to plan.
 - Moving forward, Commission suggests Algonquin provide contractors with abbreviated document containing only the applicable standards from guidebook(s).
- Estimated start date May 7th. Construction work will be done during outage May 15-21. Commission to do site visit before and after work. Courtesy request for photo documentation of prior and post work for restoration work. Also request that native plants are used during restoration.

2) In-Water Control Non-Native and Nuisance Vegetation in the Mystic River (DEP file #287-0054) – 2018 Plan and 2017 Annual Report (7:52 pm)

Documents presented: Mystic River_annual report 2017 complete.pdf

- Started addressing water chestnut in Mystic River in 2010. 2010-2016 mechanical harvesting and hand pulling. Sharp reduction in water chestnuts. Then the density of milfoil grew to such extent that recreation was no longer possible in parts of the river.
- In 2016 modest application of contact herbicide to address acute issues of getting boats out of slips. This was to control both lily and milfoil. [This had also been done in 2010 around boat slips to control lily.]
- 2017 Sonar treatment – Solitude Lake Management and boat clubs pleased with results. Sonar also appears to have some control on water chestnut. Due to success, DCR ended up using this treatment on the Malden River as well. Also, used less herbicide stated in Amendment Request.
- Generally don't need Sonar treatment in consecutive years, but this is a dynamic system and would like to stay ahead of curve of regrowth. Good to keep milfoil under control while population is low. In long run treating this year should reduce the amount of herbicide needed. Have done this in Charles River and other locations and have seen good results. Plan to treat this year, and then not

treat again until necessary (wait-and-see approach). Will not have to treat in 2019 and likely not in 2020 either.

- New product Procellacor – not on market yet but should be soon. Works like Sonar but better for environment. Reduced risk label from EPA.
- One site in Medford (Riverside Yacht Club) Sonar treatment did not work well. This is a very high flow area, so there may not have been enough contact.
- Funding for project comes from DCR, Boat Clubs, City of Medford, as well as volunteers from MyWRA and associated fundraising.
- Use herbicide to address recreation concerns, but not to remove every trace of milfoil.
- Concern that not all upstream areas are being treated. So herbicide is working for now, but milfoil will come back once treatment stops. Apart from opening the dam, there is not a good solution.
- The milfoil has been positively IDed as invasive Eurasian milfoil.
- Treatment areas will generally same as last year – Matt to send updated map.
- The earlier they put the Sonar in the water, the less they need to use. Test concentration in water (FAST tests) and apply booster treatments as needed. Plan to start treatment in early May.

Updates and Discussion

- 1) CPA proposals for Open Space (8:25 pm)
 - Voting tomorrow. There are more requests than there is money to give.
 - ArtFarm request is being postponed until next year.
 - Discussed whether using funding for school yard projects is appropriate. Commissioner Fager will not vote for them because believes that schoolyard maintenance should be covered by the city.
 - What is ConCom criteria for evaluating criteria? How should representative represent the group?
 - Can come to public CPA meeting tomorrow to discuss project and make suggestions.
 - The next round of funding requests will be made in the Fall.
- 2) Community Gardens Review – *tabled*
- 3) Ongoing projects – *tabled*
 - MBTA Charlestown Bus Facility Project (DEP file #287-0058): site visit and Memo from Engineering Department
- 4) Outstanding Action Items (8:59 pm):
 - Everyone to provide comments on *Conservation Commission Policies* document – *tabled*
 - Everyone to provide comments and suggestions on the draft of the public education brochure – *tabled*
 - Commissioner Wartella to look for general audience brochure examples and to start working on one for Somerville – *tabled*
 - Boukili to check on maintenance schedule of Vortech Units at ASQ
 - Need to talk to FRIT about hand off of operation and maintenance plan.
- 5) Discussion about high speed boats and wakes (8:26 pm) – *tabled*

Other Business (9:03 pm):

- 1) Schedule Assembly Square walk through – *tabled*
- 2) Keolis vegetation management plan received.
- 3) GLX notice about integrative pest management program received.

Approval of minutes:

- 4) February 27, 2018 – *tabled*



Adjourn:

- 1) Motion to adjourn meeting unanimously approved at 9:05 [motion – Fager, second – Wartella].

Outstanding Action Items:

February:

- **Action:** invite Dan Driscoll to attend March Commission meeting to discuss Draw 7 Park.

January:

- **Action:** Reach out to Sewer Department to check on maintenance schedule of Vortech Units at ASQ.

November:

- **Action:** Commissioner Wartella to look for general audience brochure examples and to start working on one for Somerville.

List of Meeting Documents (located here: K:\OHCD\Shared\Conservation Commission\Agenda + Minutes + Legal Notices 2018\2018_03_27_Meeting_Documents):

- Agenda (2017_03_27_Agenda_Revised.pdf)
- Ongoing Project Data Spreadsheet (3- Ongoing Project Data.xlsx)
- February meeting minutes (2017_02_27_Minutes_Draft.docx)
- Algonquin J-1 System Natural Gas Pipeline – Casing Removal: letter and site information (1- SomervilleConCom-Casing Removal work_3-22-2018.pdf)
- Algonquin J-1 System Natural Gas Pipeline – Casing Removal: handouts with maps and tree details (Casing Removal Project Handouts_ConCom Mtg_2018-03-22.pdf)
- In-Water Control Non-Native and Nuisance Vegetation in the Mystic River (DEP file #287-0054) –2017 Annual Report (2- Mystic River_annual report 2017 complete.pdf)
- MBTA Charlestown Bus Facility Project site visit photos (9 photos K:\OHCD\Shared\Conservation Commission\Agenda + Minutes + Legal Notices 2018\2018_04_24_Meeting_Documents\updates and discussion\3a- Site Visit Photos March 2018)
- City of Somerville Engineering Department Memo re: MBTA Charlestown Bus Facility Project (3a- Eng Dept Memo to ConComm_FINAL rev.1.pdf)
- Draft Conservation Commission policy document (5b- Draft Somerville ConComm. Policy (Nov. 2017).docx)
- Draft Conservation Commission educational brochure (5c- Conservation commission two-pager (11.28 draft).docx)