



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

**TUESDAY, JUNE 26, 2018, 7:00 PM
MINUTES**

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

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

Commission Members in attendance: Owen Wartella (Acting Chair), Cristina Kennedy, Aladdine Joroff, Michael Fager

Commission Members absent: Rachel Borgatti, Mathias Neuber, David Turin

Others in Attendance: N/A

Staff: Vanessa Boukili (Conservation Agent), Cortney Kirk

Owen Wartella (acting chair) called the meeting to order at 7:26 pm followed by introductions.

New Business:

- 1) 5 Middlesex Avenue MEPA filing (7:28 pm)
 - Location appears to be outside of Conservation Commission jurisdiction.
 - If connects to 72 inch outfall pipe, will need to submit NOI.
 - Comment letters are due by July 24th. City will submit comment letter, can include communications from Conservation Commission.
 - For stormwater treatment, low-impact design treatments would be better than Vortech Units.
 - Any additional comments for letter to be sent to Agent Boukili by July 15th.

Updates and Discussion

- 1) Ongoing Projects (7:37 pm)
 - a) Mystic Dock Removal Project (DEP 287-0061) site restoration
 - Reviewed site visit photos from Agent Boukili (Commissioner Fager was also at site visit) taken on 6/1/2018.
 - Site has been reseeded and restored. Restoration not yet complete because vegetation has not yet sprouted.



- Straw wattle remains around headwall.
 - b) Algonquin J-1 System Mystic River Crossing Replacement Project (DEP 287-0057) site visit
 - Reviewed site visit photos from Agent Boukili taken on 6/21/2018.
 - Majority of the restoration has been completed, but additional work is needed including: redoing sidewalks, restoring grass near sidewalks, putting in silt sacks instead of filter fabric, re-seeding some bare patches, pick up sand, clean up fencing materials taken down but left behind, fill in some holes from poles, pick up garbage.
 - Need to do a little bit more earth work to protect the pipe, and will then restore that area.
 - c) Mystic River Aquatic Management Program (DEP 287-0054) Sonar treatment booster
 - Completed Booster last Friday. Signage was put up prior to previous booster; all other conditions are being met.
 - d) Before and after pictures of Gentle Giant fence installation from Parks and Rec Department
 - Pictures of fence received, they do not show the river side.
 - e) Status of other ongoing projects
 - **Action:** Check on status of casing removal project.
 - Assembly Square water quality monitoring – established new automatic sampling protocol. Will be sending report soon.
 - **Action:** Check on DCR Mystic River Outfall Maintenance project.
 - **Action:** Check on the status of the Charlestown Bus Facility project.
- 2) Updates on Eversource Oil spill and cleanup efforts (8:02 pm)
- On June 1st, Agent Boukili and Commissioner Fager met onsite with large team of people (MassDEP, Eversource, US Coast Guard, MWRA, GZA (LSP), and Clean Harbors). Boukili shared photos of site visit, and discussed clean up efforts to date. Oil booms are place, and skimming area daily. At outfall site, Clean Harbors has been capturing 3-5 gallons of oil per day, and new sheens were appearing every day. On June 3rd they flushed the storm drain. This reduced the appearance of sheens, but additional cleaning is still needed.
 - Commissioner Joroff reviewed text of IRA, found it to be consistent with what they have told the ConCom before. They will come before ConCom with a plan for cleaning up the soil (not for taking samples though).
 - Since the site visit there have been two meetings at the USCG office. Meetings included Unified Command (US Coast Guard, MassDEP, and Eversource), project engineer from Wynn Design and Development, Mystic River Watershed, and others. End points were discussed, including 30 days with no occurrence of sheen, and methods for cleaning the hard surfaces.
- 3) Community Gardens review (8:12 pm)
- a) Update on Open Garden Day
 - Tara emailed garden coordinators to see if anyone is interested. No response yet.
 - Could consider limiting Open Garden Day to 2 to 3 gardens this year.
 - Boukili to provide contact information to Commissioner Kennedy.
 - b) Garden fees - **tabled**
 - c) Open list of suggestions about getting waitlist people involved - **tabled**
- 4) Letter to DCR regarding Draw 7 park (8:15 pm)
- Conservation Commission could provide letter to Dan Driscoll with suggestions for park. Open comment period for project has passed, but ConCom could still provide support or suggestions.
 - Commissioner Fager wrote a comment letter before – Boukili will send this letter to the Commission to review and consider.

5) Outstanding Action Items:

- a) Check on maintenance schedule of Vortech Units at ASQ.
 - Next step is to obtain O&M plan from FRIT, and determine who in the City FRIT gave it to, if anyone.
- b) Educate Mayor's office and other city departments about the Conservation Commission - **tabled**
- c) Talk to DCR about including a check box for Conservation Commission permits on their permit forms - **tabled**
- d) Send letter to Carli Fence about Conservation Commission jurisdiction - **tabled**
- e) Commissioner Borgatti – send letter re: ConCom concerns about high speed boats and wakes - **tabled**
- f) Commissioner Joroff – revise ConCom Policies document - **tabled**
- g) Commissioner Joroff – revise public education document.
 - Provided draft of brochure to Commission. Somewhat text heavy, but good for employees, etc. Also will need to coordinate with general audience brochure.
 - It would be useful to add details to the brochure to state that the regulations apply to governmental agencies as well as private entities.
 - Can create final version in InDesign or other software program.
 - **Action:** Commissioners to provide comments on educational brochure.
- h) Commissioner Wartella – brochure for general audience.
 - Commissioner Borgatti has provided comments.
 - Commissioner Kennedy will help with modifications.

Other Business:

- 1) Re-schedule Assembly Square walk through
 - Will add weekend days as possibility.
- 2) CPA emergency proposal for lot on Richardson Street.
 - Somerville Community Corporation wants to purchase a lot at the corner of Richardson Street, behind Magoon Square. Plan to build affordable housing on half of the property. The other half of the lot is empty (no house), and the city wants to preserve that half as open space (pocket park). There was an emergency proposal to CPA tonight.
 - Location is actually two separate lots, with two separate deeds. Somerville Community Corporation is going to buy both of them. Will build second building behind existing house. The CPC agreed to give SCC \$210k, who will transfer the ownership of the second lot (6,000 sq. ft., currently grass and trees) to the city and it will become open space in perpetuity.

Approval of minutes:

- 1) Unanimously approved March 27th, 2018 minutes with no amendments at 8:34 pm [motion – Joroff, second – Fager].
- 2) Unanimously approved May 22nd, 2018 minutes with no amendments at 8:36 pm [motion – Kennedy, second – Joroff].

Adjourn:

- 1) Motion to adjourn meeting unanimously approved at 8:40 pm [motion – Joroff, second – Fager].



Outstanding Action Items:

June:

- **Action:** Check on status of casing removal project.
- **Action:** Check on DCR Mystic River Outfall Maintenance project.
- **Action:** Check on the status of the Charlestown Bus Facility project.
- **Action:** Commissioners to provide comments on educational brochure.

April:

- **Action:** Talk to DCR about including a check box for Conservation Commission permits on their permit forms (ex. is this project within 25 feet of a wetland? If so, contact local Conservation Commission).
- **Action:** Send letter to Carli Fence about Conservation Commission jurisdiction.
- **Action:** Send email to DPW, Planning, Engineering, Capital Projects, and any other departments who might review construction or development projects. Remind them of Conservation Commission jurisdiction and requirements that must be following when working near the river.
- **Action:** Talk to Garden Coordinators about accounting of garden fees.
- **Action:** Commission to start a list of suggestions for Garden Coordinators about how to be more open/ inclusive, especially to folks on the waitlist (ex. "garden-sitting" when gardeners are on vacation).
- **Action:** Commissioner Joroff to revise ConCom Policies document, then Commissioners to read though it again to make sure everyone is willing to follow it.
- **Action:** Commissioner Borgatti to send letter re: ConCom concerns about high speed boats and wakes and ask about routes.

List of Meeting Documents (located here: K:\OHCD\Shared\Conservation Commission\Agenda + Minutes + Legal Notices 2018\2018_06_26_Meeting_Documents):

- Agenda (2018_06_26_Agenda.pdf)
- Ongoing Project Data Spreadsheet (Ongoing Project Data.xlsx)
- March meeting minutes (2018_03_27_Minutes_DRAFT.docx)
- May meeting minutes (2018_05_22_Minutes_DRAFT.docx)
- 5 Middlesex Avenue MEPA filing (XMBLY_DEIR Full Document 061518.pdf)
- Mystic Dock Removal Project site visit photos (3 photos K:\OHCD\Shared\Conservation Commission\Agenda + Minutes + Legal Notices 2018\2018_06_26_Meeting_Documents\Mystic Dock Removal Restoration Photos)
- Algonquin J-1 System Mystic River Crossing Replacement Project site visit photos (29 photos K:\OHCD\Shared\Conservation Commission\Agenda + Minutes + Legal Notices 2018\2018_06_26_Meeting_Documents\Alongquin site visit 062218)
- Mystic River Aquatic Management Program Sonar treatment booster photos (3 photos K:\OHCD\Shared\Conservation Commission\Agenda + Minutes + Legal Notices 2018\2018_06_26_Meeting_Documents\Mystic herbicide booster photos)
- Gentle Giant fence installation at Blessing of the Bay photos from Parks and Rec Department (3 photos K:\OHCD\Shared\Conservation Commission\Agenda + Minutes + Legal Notices 2018\2018_06_26_Meeting_Documents\Parks & Rec Communication)
- Eversource Oil Spill clean-up efforts site visit photos (17 photos K:\OHCD\Shared\Conservation Commission\Agenda + Minutes + Legal Notices 2018\2018_06_26_Meeting_Documents\Eversource Oil Spill Photos)
- Energy 5122018.pdf
- Somerville Conservation Commission brochure Draft from Commission Joroff – hard copy only