



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

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 22RD, 2019, 7:00 PM
MINUTES

MEETING AT SOMERVILLE HIGH SCHOOL
93 HIGHLAND AVENUE
3RD FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM

Meeting notes prepared by Malik Drayton

Commission Members in attendance: Rachel Borgatti (Chair), Cristina Kennedy, Mathias Neuber, David Turin, Aladdine Joroff (*departed 8:47 pm*)

Commission Members absent: Michael Fager, Vacant

Others in Attendance: Dan Meegan (VHB), Gene Crouch (VHB)

Staff: Malik Drayton (Conservation Agent)

Rachel Borgatti called the meeting to order at 7:06 pm followed by introductions.

New Business:

1. Assembly Square – replacing tree box filters with pocket rain gardens
 - Gene Crouch (VHB) - Engineers for the developers of Assembly square
 - Filterra units – Stormwater biofiltration units with an opening in sidewalk special soil; filtration and vegetation
 - Developer dislikes the features of the filterra units and sought an alternative
 - Pocket rain gardens – has the same design as rain gardens which:
 - Filters through a system
 - Leads to an underdrain
 - Flows to catch basins
 - Dimensions approximately (5 ft x 24 ft)
 - 8 inch curbs around
 - Larger surface area and functions better than the filterra units
 - Would the new pocket rain gardens be more or less difficult to maintain?
 - Existing trees and shrubs died in the filterra units
 - Who maintains the current filterra units
 - Federal realty is responsible for maintenance of the catch basins
 - New pipes / Tie-ins?



- New pipes same surfaces treated; same functions
- Is this an in-kind change?
- OOC Expired? New NOI?
- Excavation is a for sized hole in the sidewalk
- Amend 5B Block → Sediment & Erosion Control Plan
- Verify Construction & Function of new pocket rain gardens
- Outside of jurisdiction? → No, due to the connection to the outfall
- Main concern for the project was whether or not it met stormwater standards
- Any other rain gardens in Assembly Row? Yes
 - However as the area gets further developed, they will be removed
- Is there a dedicated crew for maintenance on these units? Yes
- Replace Trees? No Trees are being replaced
- Project entails replacement & Improvements to existing system? Yes
- Construction Impacts are of concern, are there Erosion & Sediment controls in place? Yes
- The OOC for Block 7 is still open
- Separate Block 7 & Block 5B?
- Can we put conditions on the COC?
 - Only if said condition was identifies in the original order
 - Vote to approve? Is it an amendment to an expired COC?
- Should an RDA or an NOI be filed?
 - On a Negative Determination can conditions be added? Yes
 - NOI for block 7 not filed
 - City must sign the NOI
 - Must be built this year on 5B → Can't wait until November
- RDA vs. NOI?
 - Non- jurisdictional? The connectional to the outfall is.
 - Previously approved conditions → RDA
- Can you expand the Block 5B; Scope of work for block 7?
- New party, old development → OOC?
- Concerns with pollutants, etc → Oversight on the process
- Site Visit → RDA → 3rd party? Who is building this?
- Vote to approve provided the appropriate Erosion & Sediment controls
- What is the procedure?
- When is Block 7 supposed to start?
- What is the schedule for Block 5B?
- Developers against phasing
- Justification for in-kind change?
- Formal RDA, More tangible information
 - Negative Determination w/ special conditions
 - No adverse impacts during construction
 - Positive determination → NOI
- Negative 2 Determination
 - Add lines for conditions in form (i.e – See conditions # - #)
 - File an RDA? Yes?
 - Conditions of an RDA are still enforceable
- Requested - Conditions of rain gardens and who are required to maintain them
- For an NOI, a storm water report has to be done, it is not necessary for an RDA but this has already been done.
- *More discussion ensues*

- RDA to be submitted to the Conservation Commission

Discussion ends – *Gene Crouch and Dan Meegan take their leave of the meeting*

Updates and Discussion:

- 1) Community Gardens forms and manual (8:27 pm)
 - Master wait-list – Is everyone consistently using this vs. keeping their own list?
 - Finance tracking sheet – to better understand how garden funds are used
 - **Action:** Agent Drayton to ask Dr. Boukili for more information on how the financial tracking sheet should be utilized.
 - Forms are ready – Moot if the information is not shared
 - Online forms to be placed on community gardens website
- 2) Ongoing Projects
 - Review ongoing projects spreadsheet
- 3) CPC Representative (8:41 pm)
 - Who will be the CPC Representative starting Jan 2020?
 - More information pertaining to the duties and responsibilities of the role is required from Commissioner Fager.
 - Discussion ensues (*Tabled until next meeting*)
- 4) Conservation Restriction – 5 Palmer Ave (8:48 pm)
 - Already signed by Chair Borgatti
 - **Action:** Agent Drayton to get a copy of the signed Conservation Restriction and file appropriately
 - **Action:** Agent Drayton to find more information on another pending Conservation Restriction at Winter Hill and inform the Commission.
- 5) Letters/ Notifications (8:55pm)
 - Correspondence to City departments
- 6) Action Item Review (*Tabled*)

Other Business:

1. Conservation Commission Vacancies (8:20 pm)
 - a) Awaiting memo from AAC to mayor
 - **Action:** Agent Drayton to contact AAC member in regards to memo, possibly aiding in creating draft memo.
 - b) Approval from Mayor
 - c) Appointment by City Council
2. Commissioner Re-Appointments (8:20 pm)
 - a) On the docket since 2018

Approval of Minutes:

- 1) September 03rd, 2019 (*Tabled*)
- 2) September 24th, 2019 (*Tabled*)

Adjourn:

- 1) Motion to adjourn meeting unanimously approved at 9:07 pm [motion – Nueber, second – Kennedy, vote: 4:0:0].

Action Items:

2019

November:

- **Action:** Agent Drayton to ask Dr. Boukili for more information on how the financial tracking sheet should be utilized.
- **Action:** Agent Drayton to get a copy of the signed Conservation Restriction and file appropriately
- **Action:** Agent Drayton to find more information on another pending Conservation Restriction at Winter Hill
- **Action:** Agent Drayton to contact AAC member in regards to memo, possibly aiding in creating draft memo.

October:

- **Action:** Agent Drayton to update Garden Map to include more street names (remove walkshed circles or put on interactive map so that people can zoom in and out).
- **Action:** Send correspondence 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 followed when working near the river.

September:

- **Action:** MD to setup meeting with Tara & Erica
- **Action:** Agent Drayton to work with T&I staff on educational brochure formatting.
- **Action:** After reformat this brochure to be able to easily print it, put this on website.

March:

- **Action:** ConCom to send letter to Patrick and DCR asking for details of milfoil treatment plant and meeting summary from discussion of chemicals to be used.

February:

- **Action:** Garden subcommittee will submit a draft of all garden documents to be sent out to the ConCom and Garden Coordinators in time for the March 26th ConCom meeting.
- **Action:** design and price out signs to add to Medford's outfall poles.

2018

November:

- **Action:** Commissioner Fager to draft letter to DCR re: Draw 7 Park, Commissioner Turin and Kennedy to assist.

October:

- **Action:** Agent Drayton to work with T&I staff on educational brochure formatting.
- **Action:** After reformat this brochure to be able to easily print it, put this on website.

List of Meeting Documents (located here K:\OHCD\Shared\Conservation Commission\Agenda + Minutes + Legal Notices 2019\2019_10_22_Meeting_Documents):

- Agenda (2019_10_22_Agenda.pdf)
- Ongoing Projects spreadsheet (Ongoing Project Data.xlsx)
- Block5B Rain Gardens.pdf