



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

**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 25<sup>TH</sup>, 2020, 7:00 PM  
MINUTES**

**MEETING AT SOMERVILLE HIGH SCHOOL  
93 HIGHLAND AVENUE  
3<sup>RD</sup> FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM**

**Commission Members in attendance:** Rachel Borgatti (Chair), Cristina Kennedy, David Turin, Aladdine Joroff, Newton Tedder, Titania Ng (unconfirmed), Michael Fager (entered 7:47pm)

**Commission Members absent:**

**Others in Attendance:** None

**Staff:** Malik Drayton (Conservation Agent); Arn Franzen (Public Space Project Manager)

Rachel Borgatti called the meeting to order at 7:07 pm followed by introductions.

**New Business:**

1. Dilboy Fields
  - Adjacent to Alewife Brooke
  - Design improvements
  - Poor conditions of fields have been an issue for a while.
  - DCR Property → City of Somerville making improvements with DCR Permission
  - Replace soils
  - Re-grade
  - New drainage system
  - Slice drain along Dilboy field
  - Plans still under development
  - Warner Larson (Design Consultant)
  - Redesign things as they are:
    - Addition of lighting component
      - Lighting in the stadium currently
      - Lighting to be added to the auxiliary fields
  - Fields deem pitted, uneven and thusly unsafe
  - What is the anticipated schedule?
    - Design slated to be complete Summer 2020

- Work predominantly slated for the fall growing season
- Rainfall Protection required
- Current maintenance schedule vs, Future maintenance
  - New recreation staff acquired (staff is specific to fields)
  - Additional capacity should introduce more proactive maintenance
- Who is the Applicant?
  - City of Somerville / Warner Larson (Representative)
  - DCR is the Property Owner so they have to be the Applicant
- DCR presence required
- What of a past CPA proposal to move electrical boxes?
- Mystery utilities
  - New design should remedy these issues
  - Jill from recreation needs to be made aware of the measures that need to be taken to protect the Alewife Brooke.
- Community calls for sustainable fields management practices
- It is City policy no to maintain with Chemicals, organic measures will be used only
- Grass mix
- Turf consultant for soils, grass fields
- Crop maintenance for maintenance purposes
- Plans to replace track and turf field
- It will continue to be a synthetic turf field
  - Type of turf
  - In fill material
- What happens to the water when it rains on the Dilboy Station
  - Is there drainage under the fields?
  - Is there money allocated for this?
  - Money is only allocated for the design

## 2. Draw 7 Park

- Living Shore line
- No Playing field → now a lawn area
- Raised path incorporated in living Shoreline
  - Wooden boardwalk type path
- Raised structure (5-6 ft.)
- Bridge (no Gondola)
- Reduced / Down sized parking lot
  - MBTA nearby, too many people parking there to use the station
- Native Plantings
- Invasive Removal
- Increase in Wetland area, thus an increase in jurisdictional area
- Permitting targeted for Spring
  - Chapter 91, etc.
- Finished and open 2022
- DCR plans for the Amelia Earhart dam
- Comments on Draw 7 Park due 03/172020
- Wooden path should be made of the Ipe (Brazilian Walnut) a South American hard wood known for its strength and rot resistance.
- Public inquired about the Head house construction
  - Injuries went unanswered as this refers to an MBTA project

- Pathways may connect
- Draw 7 park area vs. the MBTA laydown areas
- Shift in parking Lot
  - MBTA Property vs. DCR property
  - Negations pending
- How to keep people out of certain unsafe areas
- Any impacts to the 72 inch pipe? No
- Utilities that lead to the dam will have to be rebuilt
- More Natural park
  - Rocks in cages
  - Wetlands creation → Salt marsh
- What is the Commission weigh in on before the end of the Comment period?
- More Wetlands in the form of a salt marsh will limit the growth of phragmites
- **Action:** Commissioner Fager to draft a letter pertaining to the comments period of the Draw 7 Park Meeting and all Commissioners are to review letter and send Comments to Agent Drayton.

### Updates & Discussions

#### 3. Community Gardens forms and manuals

- Chuckie Harris Community Garden
- Soliciting community input
- Gardens are not being used
- City takes gardens back and plants them?
  - Vs. Stay with Conservation Commission as a Community Garden
- Want feedback from the Community gardeners
- Very small (inconsequential) space
- City can make a better determination for that space
- Community Process?
- What is the process of decommissioning a Community garden?
- DPW / Rec Department are challenged when it comes to maintenance of plantings
- Shaded area due to building development
- Does City of Somerville have a shade ordinance? No
- Allen Street playground → Community garden renovation
  - Looked at the building shade cast
- Commission could follow Arn's advice and give the Chuckie harris Garden plots back to the City of Somerville
- Can we put out an RFI solicit ideas for a non-profit to figure out how to deal with Chuckie Harris?
  - Give a 6 month trial run?
- Plot were abandoned
- Should they become pollinator gardens?
- Re: RFI for the Summer
  - One month before planting season
- Plots are odd shaped and 7- 8 in number.
  - Should plot be broken up smaller or consolidated into one large plot?
- Allen Street renovations 8 x 10 → (2) 4 x 10 plots

#### 4. Open Space Discussion

- Foss Park - Conservation Commission to write letter
  - 8 Large trees slated for removal

- DCR Park, DCR project
- Timeframe – field was supposed to be done already
- Arn Franzen gives a general update on open Space:
  - POPs – Powerhouse School Park
  - Prospect Hill Park
  - Healey School Yard Plans
    - Bids late March, Start May, Duration 2 Years
  - What about the Art farm?
    - CPA funded, has Arts Council Oversight
    - Could use some help from City / Planning Staff
  - Conway
    - City of Somerville, Contaminated field
    - LSP, DEP, EPA \$250,000, remediation design specifications
    - New turf fields
    - Tree Removals / Tree plantings
    - Contaminated with in 9 – 10 ft.
    - 50ppb
    - Remediation
      - a. Excavation at various depths
      - b. Waste trucked out
      - c. Graded even
      - d. 18” Fill (Artificial turf)
      - e. 36” Fill (Natural turf )
  - West Somerville Community School – Pending community meetings
  - Brown Schools – Pending community meetings
  - Lincoln park
    - Fence around the field
    - Resting / re-seeding → Regrowth
    - Field specifications errors
      - a. Contractor submittals not approved
      - b. puddles, etc.
      - c. City of Somerville made the contractor start over
      - d. Brought in a design consultant
      - e. Soil Sample; mixes, etc
      - f. Professional Ball field mix
      - g. 80% Sand / 20% Organic
      - h. More soil test
      - i. Specifications for field mix
      - j. Longer time for grass to establish because of the sand
      - k. Roots need to be 10 inches thick
    - Coordinate with engineering during school renovations?
      - a. Some locations will change but not dramatically
      - b. More pervious surfaces, more trees
      - c. Snow removal issues school yards due to the removal of asphalt surfaces.

5. Ongoing Projects

- Review of ongoing spreadsheet (Tabled)
- Conservation Agent Action Item Review

6. Notice of Project change – Charlestown Bus Facility Shoreline Stabilization and Yard Improvements



- Increase in wetland area impacted
- Modification of the outfall in Boston
  - Increase in stormwater
  - Outfall “E” is this in Boston or Somerville?
  - Discharges into the City of Somerville
  - Should we expect an NOI?
- 7. Commissioner Re-Appointments / Appointments
  - Newton Tedder and Titania Ng has been confirmed
- 8. Somervision 2040 updates
  - Chair Borgatti gives the Somervision 2040 update
  - Comment period extended
  - Most comments have been on areas for youth engagement
  - Arts council comments
    - Preservation of live/ workspaces
  - Not a lot of land use public space comments at this time
  - 101 acre goal vs. 124 acre goal
    - Is this a more attainable goal?
  - The spread of open space as an indicator or measurement
  - Safe routes to open space
- 9. CPC Updates
  - Commissioner Kennedy gives the CPC Update
  - Not a lot of new business
  - CPA Orientation for Mass CPC’s
  - Soliciting media consultants for 5 – 10 minute documentary
    - Success stories of the CPA
  - Waning interest in the CPC, how to stimulate interest?
  - Administrative CPC Funds
  - City to increase taxes for CPC
  - 03/25/2020 will host the public comment for the next round of CPA Applications.
  - Community preservation plan
    - Is the new plan out as yet?
  - Emergency request Action denied
  - How much can an emergency request be for?
  - Land Acquisition \$200,000
- 10. Discussion on Conservation Commission Agenda and Operations for 2020
- 11. Approval of Minutes
  - November 26<sup>th</sup>, 2019 (Tabled)

**Adjourn:**

- 1) Motion to adjourn meeting unanimously approved at 9:35 pm [motion – Fager, second – Kennedy, vote: 7:0:0].

**Action Items:**



**2020**

- **Action:** Agent Drayton to add ConCom Share drive: Project Specific Special conditions and all draft Letters
- **Action:** Agent Drayton to update ongoing project data
- **Action:** Agent Drayton to request update from Patrick Heron pertaining to a Comprehensive Aquatic Invasive Treatment Plan
- **Action:** Commissioner Fager to draft a letter pertaining to the comments period of the Draw 7 Park Meeting and all Commissioners are to review letter and send Comments to Agent Drayton.

**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

**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 l 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.

**September:**

- **Action:** Agent Drayton to work with T&I staff on educational brochure formatting.
- **Action:** After reformatting 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 plan 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 26<sup>th</sup> ConCom meeting.
- **Action:** Design and price out signs to add to Medford's outfall poles.

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**List of Meeting Documents** (located here K:\OHCD\Shared\Conservation Commission\Agenda + Minutes + Legal Notices 2020\2020\_02\_25\_Meeting\_Documents):

- Agenda (2020\_02\_25\_Agenda.pdf)
- Ongoing Projects spreadsheet (Ongoing Project Data.xlsx)