



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

TUESDAY, APRIL 28TH, 2020, 7:00 PM
MINUTES

MEETING AT HELD REMOTELY AT GOTOWEBINAR.COM

Registration URL : <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/3584921784926536973>

Webinar ID : 475-532-291

Dial in Information: United States: +1 (914) 614-3221

Access Code: 484-532-358

Meeting notes prepared by Malik Drayton

Recording of Virtual Meeting Can be found at the link here:

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/recording/3003218561292763915>

Commission Members in attendance: Rachel Borgatti (Chair), Cristina Kennedy, David Turin, Aladdine Joroff, Newton Tedder, Titania Ng, Michael Fager

Commission Members absent: None

Others in Attendance: Tara Lyndsey, Nicoe McCullough, Lori Demaine, Leanne Darrigo, Jaronica Fuller, Rachel Schwarz, Cathy Haines, Cindy Seltzer, Latisha Derepentigny, Lizzie Lundgren, Jeanine F.
(Community Gardens Coordinators)

Staff: Malik Drayton (Conservation Agent); Luisa Oliveira (Public Space & Urban Forestry Director)

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

New Business:

1. Remote Meeting Instructions / Introductions
2. Community Gardens Program Review and Discussion with Garden Coordinators
 - a. COVID-19 Impacts on Community Gardens
 - b. City Updates on Community Gardens
 1. 2 Gardens are privately owned (Tufts Garden/ Avon Street garden)
 - a. Avon Street Garden is closed due to construction
 - b. Tufts is closed due to COVID-19 Precautions
 2. Gardeners request for stone dust, Mulch, Water
 3. Inquires pertaining to displaced gardeners



4. Lincoln Park Vandalism / Theft - Cut bulbs, stolen pea shoots
 - a. Lock on shed broken
 - b. Concerns pertaining to beds not being raised and thusly being exposed to dog waste
 - c. Is it possible to retrofit a gate for this community garden?
5. Can CPA funds be utilized for Community Garden improvements?
6. Inquiry pertaining to scheduling community garden usage among the gardeners during COVID-19 crowding restrictions.

3. Ongoing Projects Review

a. Ongoing Projects Spreadsheet

a. Commissioners inquire of the status of several projects in the Assembly Square:

a. Vortex units monitoring report

1. Are these reports supposed to be submitted in perpetuity? 3 years?
2. What is the value of more monitoring?
3. Who is supposed to be doing the maintenance?

b. 2017_7 - Mystic River Dock Removal Project

- a. Concerns about the restoration of the site from the dock removal - Site visit needed.
- c. Ask for Certificate of Compliance (COC) for completed projects

b. Conservation Agent Action Item

c. **Action Item:** Agent Drayton to adding missing project information from several projects to the Conservation Commission Shared Drive

d. **Action Item:** Agent Drayton to reach out to points of contact in regard to commissioners inquires pertaining to the status of all ongoing projects on the Projects spreadsheet. Most notably Gene Crouch of VHB.

4. Community Preservation Committee Updates

a. Last Year Fund expenditures:

- a. 50% - Housing
- b. 15% - Historic Preservation
- c. 20% - Open Space
- d. 10% - Undesignated
- e. 5% - Administrative fees

b. \$1.6 Million Tentative - COVID-19 Pandemic may cause a change in levels

Other Business:

5. Jurisdictional Inquiry - Draw 7 Park Soil Borings

- a. Borings appear to only be in the buffer area, not in the resources area.
- b. Invite to next meeting? Is this jurisdictional? Would they need to file an RDA?
- c. **Action Item** - Agent Drayton to make inquiry to Weston & Sampson:
 - a. Ask how deep soil borings are
 - b. Ask what equipment is being used and by what method are they performing the borings

6. MBTA - Charlestown Bus Facility

- a. If the project is in Somerville, then they must come before the commission
- b. Request a clear map with more information
- c. Confirm that the work being performed will not impact resource areas

- d. May 20th, 2020 Completion date on the permit, have not received any updated information
- e. **Action Item** - Chair Borgatti to draft correspondence, Agent Drayton to disseminate and make necessary inquiries.

7. Solitude Lake Management – Extension Request (DEP# 287-0053)

- a. **Action Item** - Agent Drayton to invite representative from solitude lake management to the next conservation commission meeting.
- b. Permit expiration on hold due to COVID-19 Pandemic (45 Days after emergency?)
- c. **Action Item** - Agent Drayton to make inquiry pertaining to a holistic long-term plan for aquatic vegetation management. Add MyRWA to inquiry and add Chair Borgatti to correspondence.

Approval of Minutes:

8. March 31, 2020 [motion - Tedder, second - Fager - 7:0:0]

- a. Winter Hill Yacht Club discussed in review of last meetings minutes:
 - a. EPA MSEP Permit
 - b. **Action Item** - Commissioner Tedder to draft letter pertaining to the Environmental Protection Agency Multi-Sector General Permit

Adjourn:

- 1) Motion to adjourn meeting unanimously approved at 9:33 pm [motion – Turin, second – Ng, vote: 7:0:0].

Action Items:

April 2020

- **Action Item:** Agent Drayton to adding missing project information from several projects to the Conservation Commission Shared Drive
- **Action Item:** Agent Drayton to reach out to points of contact regarding commissioners inquires pertaining to the status of all ongoing projects on the Projects spreadsheet. Most notably Gene Crouch of VHB.
- **Action Item -** Agent Drayton to make inquiry to Weston & Sampson: Ask how deep soil borings are and ask what equipment is being used and by what method are they performing the Draw 7 Park Soil borings.
- **Action Item -** Chair Borgatti to draft correspondence, Agent Drayton to disseminate and make necessary inquiries for the MBTA Charlestown Bus Facility Project.
- **Action Item -** Agent Drayton to invite representative from solitude lake management to the next conservation commission meeting.
- **Action Item -** Agent Drayton to make inquiry pertaining to a holistic long-term plan for aquatic vegetation management. Add MYRWA to inquiry and add Chair Borgatti to correspondence.
- **Action Item -** Commissioner Tedder to draft letter pertaining to the Environmental Protection Agency Multi-Sector General Permit

March 2020

- **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:** Agent Drayton to add to 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.
- **Action:** Commissioner Ng to work with Commissioner Joroff on educational brochure formatting.
- **Action:** Agent Drayton after the reformatting is approved will have this put on the website.
- **Action:** Commissioner Fager to talk to Patrick and DCR asking for details of milfoil treatment plan and meeting summary from discussion of chemicals to be used.
- **Action:** Agent Drayton to ensure Engineering completes the signs to add to Medford's outfall poles.

November 2019:

- **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 2019:

- **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.

List of Meeting Documents (located here K:\OHCD\Shared\Conservation Commission\Agenda + Minutes + Legal Notices 2020\2020_04_28_Meeting_Documents):

- Agenda (2020_04_28_Agenda.pdf)
- 03-31-2020 Minutes (2020_03-31 Minutes.docx)
- Ongoing Projects spreadsheet (Ongoing Project Data.xlsx)

