

**Conservation Commission**  
**Mar. 27, 2002 Meeting Minutes**

**Meeting opened**

Meeting opened at 7:10 by Cassandra.

**Introductions:**

Present were: Anne Phelps, Janet McGowan, Delia Kaye, John Buchheit, Leslie Brayton, Michael Fager and Marta Anderson. Marta, an employee of MACC, lives in Somerville and wants to be an Associate member of the Consv. Comm.

**Minutes from Feb. 27<sup>th</sup>**

The Consv. Comm. reviewed the minutes from the last meeting on-line and Cassandra amended the section on IKEA. Revised minutes were presented and one sentence was modified. **Cassandra moved to approve the minutes and Leslie seconded. All approved.**

**Budget**

Anne has submitted the Consv. Comm. business plan and department budget for next year for approval by the mayor and Bd. of Aldermen. Copies were handed out. Anne noted that after all known expenses and encumbrances are paid about \$1,300.00 will remain in this year's operating budget, and suggested we spend it on the gardens. Cassandra, Delia, Leslie and Anne agreed to meet Tues., April 9<sup>th</sup> at 5 pm to decide how to spend the remaining funds in the operating budget and discuss garden needs.

**Administrative**

Cassandra reminded us that April will be her last meeting as chair. She suggested when we vote on a new chair we also select a vice chair.

**Old Business**

Cassandra reported on her meeting with the mayor, and said she was asked about our continuing role in the Community Growing Center, and was told the mayor has someone in mind to replace Rachel soon.

Anne reported she's sort of "out of the loop" on the open space plan. There was a working meeting with Jenn Hill and others to work on the questionnaire, but Anne didn't attend and no one from OHCD attended.

Anne reported on a call to Algonquin gas to check on status of work. Cassandra suggested Anne do a site inspection to check on sedimentation barriers before they resume work this year. Cassandra said she will check with Gary Jacobs about Northstar. Anne should check on the Kemp Nut site status, which was promised to the Consv. Comm. as another Community Garden.

## **New Business**

Glen Garden - Bulldozing at Glen Garden (Edgerly School) has begun. Mike Foley gave interested gardeners 3 dates to get access to the garden to remove plants, but bulldozing was begun before plants were removed.

319 Grant from DEP - The scope of work for the 319 grant is being modified by Anne and Jane Pierce (DEP) and is expected to yield a new contract by the end of this FY. Cassandra suggested the Consv. Comm. should be very interested in these BMPs and how well they work, especially since we may be asking developers to put them in, and said this issue should stay on the agenda to keep the Consv. Comm. informed. Leslie said we should put a sign up at the already installed BMP (Stormtreat system at Boston Avenue), and should contact manufacturer for information for the sign.

Aldersey Street - Cassandra said the development planned for Aldersey Street would remove an important landmark in Somerville. The property is a triple lot that we'd like to preserve.

## CPA

Fred Behrman and Danial LeBlanc of the Somerville Community Corporation (SCC) –a non-profit group interested in affordable housing --reported on their efforts to assess the public climate in Somerville regarding the Community Preservation Act. The SCC is mainly interested in using funds from the act for low-cost housing. They are in the process of talking to groups (like the Conservation Commission), business people, and elected officials. They want to make a determination of whether to wage a campaign for passage. They plan to make their decision by the beginning of May. They asked the Conservation Commission to participate in their strategizing process. Cassandra said that the Consv. Comm. is supportive, but we probably cannot commit to the campaign.

## **Committees**

Partridge/Hansen- Michael said the last meeting on Mar. 11<sup>th</sup> had no veterans present, and although there was some discussion, particularly regarding a retaining wall design, no decision was made. There is no design committee for this garden yet. Next meeting for Partridge/Hansen is April 22.

Durrell - Les Brayton has drawn plans for a Community Garden fronted by a pocket park at Durrell. The plans have been shown to the mayor and are being used to develop a budget for the park. Leslie, Delia, Anne and Cassandra met to discuss a budget for Durrell.

## **Upcoming Events**

Alewife/Mystic Clean-up (Betty Radwanski is contact) CC will co-sponsor—April 27<sup>th</sup> 9-noon will have a table set up at Dilboy field to coordinate the clean up. Delia and/or John will transport Michael's canoe to Alewife.

Arbor Day is the last Friday in April, April 26<sup>th</sup>. A tree-planting at East Somerville School is planned. Anne is coordinating.

There's a city-sponsored clean-up day on May 4<sup>th</sup>. More information will be out soon.

The Herring Run is scheduled for May 11<sup>th</sup>; Anne is giving a talk for Mystic River Watershed Association.

ArtBeat2002 will be held July 20<sup>th</sup> and Cassandra and/or Delia will man a table for the Conservation Commission.

Biodiversity Days (May 31-June 3) will need more volunteers to lead walks than we had last year. And, we need to coordinate as much as possible with other groups (Tufts). Cassandra will talk to the ranger at Fresh Pond in Cambridge about leading a walk. Leslie reminded all that when making arrangements with teachers for walks, tell them parent volunteers are needed to accompany the kids on the walk. Last year there were no "leaders" to take the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade classes from Kennedy School on walks as requested. Leslie, Michael and Delia will lead walks this year. Roger Frymyer might lead a walk. All on Conserv. Comm. should try to find people to help lead walks.

**At 9:45, Cassandra moved to close. Seconded by Leslie. All approved.**