

**DRAFT**  
Conservation Commission  
Special Budget Meeting  
May 8, 2002

**I. Open Meeting/Introductions**

Cassandra Koutalidis, chair, opened the meeting at 6:35 pm. Attendance included CC members Elisabeth Miley, John Reinhardt, Rachel Evans, Delia Kaye, Leslie Brayton, Associate Member, John Buchheit, and Agent Anne Phelps. Also attending were Dr. Al Argenziano, Superintendent of Schools, Heather Rowe, Administrative Assistant to Mayor Kelly Gay, Thomas Jones, DPW, Brian Lawlor, architect for DPW, and Steve Post, Director OHCD.

Preliminary comments noted a number of people present related to the Article 97 conversion related to building a new Lincoln School, although the meeting had not been planned to discuss this issue. Cassandra said this was very short notice and not all commissioners were aware this would be on the agenda and the CC might vote on what the procedure would be. Cassandra said the Aldermen have to have a favorable letter from the CC so that the State Legislature can have the Article 97 proposal by June 1. Anne said that (based on information from Tom Jones) the Bd. of Aldermen will receive the Article 97 proposal tomorrow night, and the city believes that if the land title is not clear, the Bd. of Aldermen might not be willing to approve the proposal. Cassandra said the CC is sympathetic to the city's quandary, but the CC has a process it needs to follow. Leslie said she had to leave early, and it wasn't enough time for the CC to review the materials and deliberate on the project. Anne said the Bd. of Aldermen won't vote on the proposal until May 23, their next meeting. Consensus was reached that there wasn't enough time to review the materials immediately. Cassandra asked if all commissioners would want to review all the materials, or if some commissioners could review parts of the materials and report back to the CC.

**Elisabeth moved that a sub-committee of commissioners review the materials on Lincoln Park and respond back to the commission as a whole. Rachel seconded.**

Discussion followed. Rachel, Leslie, and Elisabeth agreed to review the materials.

**Vote: All approved.**

**Rachel moved that Anne prepare a letter to the Bd. of Aldermen to let them know CC is reviewing and will get back to them regarding the Article 97 conversion as soon as possible. Leslie seconded. Vote: All approved**

**Rachel approved the agenda. (?) seconded. All approved.**

**II. Budget**

Anne reported that the last report of over \$4,000 in the garden fund, has subsequently been called "a mistake" by auditing. There is presently \$2,182.72 in the CC (Garden) Revolving Fund. In the operating budget there is \$1449.99, unspent. Anne reported that,

following a meeting of the garden sub-committee, with Delia, Cassandra, Leslie and Anne, she had told three of the gardens they would each get \$150.00 to spend on supplies needed for those gardens. Avon, Walnut, and Osgood gardens had submitted a wish list for materials, and the sub-committee decided the best way to address these requests was to give the same amount of money to each of the 3 gardens submitting a list. Bikeway wanted a shed that they estimated would cost about \$450.00. Tufts said all they wanted was a new fence, and Conwell, with a new coordinator, did not submit a wish list. Anne said she had been trying to get a cost estimate on a new fence for Tufts. John Vik, head of Groundskeeping at Tufts had proposed getting cost estimates for a vinyl-covered chain-link fence or for a lattice-work fence, but hadn't done that yet. Delia is going to send Dan Nygaard a letter telling him the CC accepts his resignation; she said she needs some CC letterhead on which to print the letter. Delia said maybe we could just give the coordinator of Tufts \$150.00 and tell them they can use it toward the cost of a new fence. Cassandra said she like that idea. Discussion followed.

**Delia moved we give Tufts and Conwell each \$150.00 to spend, like the other gardens. Cassandra seconded. All in favor.**

Anne reported that Cedar Street signage now estimated to cost \$300-\$350.

**Elisabeth moved to approve \$350 for Cedar Street Signage. Cassandra seconded. All in favor.**

Rachel requested a report on how all the money was spent at the end of the year.

Anne reported on progress in getting T-shirts for the Conservation Commission. Delia volunteered to develop a design to go on the T-shirts. The shirts will be blue. Anne should order as many as she can get for \$100.

**Cassandra moved to approve spending approximately \$100 on T-shirts. Delia seconded. Rachel abstained. All others approved.**

Cassandra asked John what was normally spent for salt-marsh hay. He wasn't sure, so Cassandra asked if the CC wants to agree to spend up to \$250 for hay. Anne said she still needs the name of a vendor. John said Wilson Farms in Lexington might also deliver, but he doesn't know what the delivery charge would be. Discussion followed about where to store the hay until it can be distributed to the gardens.

**Cassandra empowered Anne to spend the remainder of the money as she sees fit, on whatever might be needed, including strawberries. Elisabeth seconded. All in favor.**

Anne reported that the Wetland fund (all \$4900+) would be rolled over. Anne's still trying to figure out the garden fund budget given to Anne by Bill O'Connell in Auditing; the total funds available seems to be \$2,182, but there's \$714 listed in this budget for which the origin is unclear. Cassandra asked Anne, if the Bd. of Aldermen does not agree to roll over the garden fund, and we haven't spent it, whether that means the CC will lose it? Anne replied, that, yes, if the fund is not re-authorized (rolled-over), and is otherwise unencumbered, then it is taken by the city.

Anne has an estimate from Avey that garden signs would cost about \$200/each. A big reason for this cost is trying to get something that might be partly protected (plexiglass cover) from vandalism. Elisabeth asked what other expenses we had on which the money might be expended. Anne mentioned that the CC was considering putting in a water pipe at Durrell, but that was when we thought there was about \$4000 in the fund. Following further discussion, Rachel said she would try to find out from the Bd. of Aldermen if they would roll over the garden fund or not, and get back to Anne with the information. In the meantime, Anne would get a PO for signs from Avey, but wait to actually order the signs until it was clear whether the CC revolving fund would be re-approved.

**Cassandra moved that Anne get PO for Avey to make signs for garden and Rachel try to find out if garden fund can be rolled over, then the CC will decide at next meeting how to proceed on spending. Rachel seconded. All in favor.**

### **III. Lincoln School**

Cassandra asked people who had recently arrived to introduce themselves. Dr. Argenziano identified himself (superintendent of schools), Heather Rowe, from the mayor's office, Tom Jones, DPW project manager, and Brian Lawlor, architect from Symmes Maini & McKee (SMMA). Cassandra said she had understood that there was an application going in early June, but now it seemed the city needed an answer sooner than the CC initially thought. Also, two of the CC members had had to leave early tonight. So the CC had decided to have a committee of members review the package of materials prior to the next scheduled meeting on May 22, get any additional information that they may need, and report back to the full commission. (Tape ran out/recorder not working properly).

Dr. Argenziano spoke to explain the history of the proposal to rebuild Lincoln School. Tom Jones summarized his role, and explained the sequence of approvals needed to get the proposal on the School Building Assistance Program 's (SBAP) priority list, and asked what additional materials, if any, the CC needed. Tom Jones will submit the Article 97 changes to the Bd. of Aldermen with the knowledge that the CC has not yet voted. The article 97 proposal will probably be heard both by the Finance and Bond committees.

The CC asked for an additional copy of the materials Tom has submitted to the CC on Lincoln School, so there would be 1 copy for the office and 1 in circulation to the sub-committee members. The CC gave the present copy to Rachel to review.

### Kemp Nut Site

Cassandra asked Steve Post if he could tell the commission what the present status of the Kemp Nut site was. It is proposed to be a recreation site (not a community garden). OHCD is looking for a site where big trees would be possible. One idea for Kemp was to use it as a skate-board park. The park will be designed this year for a community park. It

is no longer under consideration as a staging area for Massachusetts Highways' reconstruction of the Walnut Street Bridge.

Cassandra, coming back to discussion of Lincoln School, said the CC would commit to making a decision on Lincoln Park at it's next meeting on 22 May.

**Cassandra moved to adjourn at 8:45 pm. Delia seconded. All approved.**