

**Conservation Commission
Meeting Minutes
September 25, 2002**

Open meeting/introduction

The meeting was opened at 7:05 pm in the OHCD meeting room of the City Hall Annex. Attendees were Conservation Commission co-chairs, Elisabeth Miley Krautscheid and Delia Kaye, members Cassandra Koutalidis, Michael Fager, Lisa Brukilacchio, John Reinhardt, Associate Member Leslie Brayton, and Agent, Anne Phelps. Also attending was Ezra Glenn.

Introductions were made. The minutes of the July CC meetings and public hearings for IKEA, Tufts (EMPACT), and Gentle Giant Rowing Club were reviewed, discussed, a votes taken, in the following order:

Review Previous Meeting/Hearing Minutes

July 24 Meeting Minutes

Vote: CK moved to accept the minutes of July 24 as written. EK seconded. Discussion followed. All approved.

July 31 Meeting (Special, Procedural) Minutes

Vote: CK moved to accept the minutes of the Special Procedural Meeting from July 31 with the changes proposed by CK, to clarify the length of time the new co-chairs will serve (the coming year = next 12 months). MF seconded. All approved.

IKEA, DEP File #287-0019, Public Hearing Minutes

Vote: DK moved to accept the minutes of the Public Hearing for IKEA for May 29, June 17, 2002, July 8, 2002, July 29, 2002, and July 31, with minor corrections. MF seconded. All approved.

Tufts (EMPACT Grant) DEP File #287-0020, Public Hearing Minutes

Vote: EK moved to accept the minutes of the Public Hearing for Tufts for July 24, July 29, and July 31, 2002, with minor modifications. CK seconded. All approved.

Gentle Giant Rowing Club, DEP File #287-0021, Public Hearing Minutes

Vote: CK moved to accept the minutes of the Public Hearing for July 24 & July 31, 2002, as modified. MF seconded. All approved.

DK suggested Anne call Algonquin and tell them to record their OOC at the registry, or Anne will, and then she will bill them for her time and the cost of recording. Recording should be performed before the start of work.

The agenda was accepted, with minor modifications.

Delia agreed to act as Timekeeper, and Elisabeth as Facilitator for this meeting. Anne will make an alphabetical list to use for selecting the subsequent timekeepers for meetings.

Old Business

Procedural Meeting – Report deferred

Lincoln Park – Michael said the legislature had sent the Home Rule petition back into committee, which means it will not be reconsidered this year. From last meeting it was agreed that**Anne should ask Jennifer Soper when EOEI wants/needs information (the findings letter), or whether the letter should go to someone else. Elisabeth will talk to National Park Service about what they might want/need from the CC on this issue.** Michael said the neighborhood community thinks the new school is a ‘dead issue.’ Reportedly the neighbors met with the mayor and there may be a compromise, perhaps constructing the new school on the old site, after all. Somerville did get on the state “list” to be grandfathered for 90% funding.

Update 319 Grant – Report deferred

IKEA – Anne reported on the DEP letter with its directive that: “There should be a profile provided for the outlet of the 24-inch storm drain as well as an energy dissipator detail.” A copy of the Assembly Square Design Review Committee’s suggestions for changes to IKEA was passed around for review. CK said we need a liaison with IKEA so they can help keep us informed.

NOI Impact Monitoring – Anne reported the installation is completed. Matt dug the trench for the cable to just beyond the fence, then the cable is lying in a liner on the surface of the ground to below the waterline. Matt submitted drawings and Anne took pictures.

Rowing Club NOI – Sondra Madison, Director of the Boys & Girls Club, which holds the lease on Blessing of the Bay Boarhouse, said the NOI should have been from the Boys & Girls Club.

Union Place – The proposed Conservation Restriction was dropped and the city will use an Open Space easement, which does not need CC approval.

Open Space revision review – Ezra Glenn Ezra reviewed the changes to the plan so far, and reported that the draft has already been submitted to the state. Sherri G. has submitted a grant proposal which requires the Open Space Revision be completed. If the grant is approved, the final version of the Open Space Plan must be submitted to state by the end of November/beginning of December. Ezra said he wanted to discuss the inventory, the action plan, and any overall comments, including inaccuracies, etc. should be sent to Anne to forward, or sent directly to Ezra. CK asked if Sherri had updated the inventory, and Ezra said yes. Comments and discussion of the inventory followed. The

It was suggested that Ezra should explain what was meant by “protected in perpetuity,” on the inventory.

DK suggested re-grouping components of the inventory, to include categories of what’s open space now versus what might be open space in future. A discussion about the definition of ‘Open Space’ and what items should be included in the Action Plan followed. It was decided a meeting was needed to reach consensus on these issues.

Meeting set for Oct. 10th, 6pm at City Hall Annex, to discuss Open Space Plan further. Elisabeth offered to collate comments on the definition of open space in the meantime.

New Business

North Point: MEPA has required North Point to consult with the Somerville CC (part of their response to JR and JB’s comment letter). Anne met with Ralph Cox and Lisa Serafin from Spaulding & Slye (developers for North Point) and Ron Farrar to discuss the drainage issues. At that time Ralph agreed to attend, with his engineer, a meeting with Somerville engineers to discuss the drainage issues further.

Bike Path – Joel Bennett told Anne that the mayor has entered negotiations w/MBTA for lease for extension of Bike Path

Comm. Growing Center – Report deferred - Lisa has flyer for Harvest Festival

Rept. On MDC meet re: draw downs - Anne reported briefly on the meeting with MDC, and said Karl Pastore (EOEA) is coordinating the input on the final policy language for MDC’s new policy on draw downs, which should be ready shortly. MK suggested that wording be added to define “emergency”, and CK said an emergency should be something that poses immediate danger to human health.

Roger Frymire- Cassandra asked that the CC provide monetary donations for Roger’s lost equipment and bring them to the next meeting. Checks should be made out to CK, and she can then write one check.

Tree Steward Training (DEM)- Elisabeth said DEM is offering tree steward training October 5th, and said she planned to attend.

Vote: LB moved that the CC funds pay the cost for CC members who want to go to the training. MF seconded. All in favor.

14 Quincy Street – Anne received an email from Brian Harris, saying that Steve Post wanted to know if the CC was interested in managing 14 Quincy St., which is protected as open space, as a community garden.

Vote: DK moved to accept the offer to take the Quincy St. site. DK amended the motion, that the CC write a letter of acceptance to the offer. MF seconded. All in favor.

Administration

New member – Janet McGowan- Janet is not here. Postponed.

Announcement – Elisabeth said she and her new husband have purchased a house in Medford, and since she will no longer be a Somerville resident, she will be resigning from the CC in November. Elisabeth also said she is on her honeymoon the 2 wks. Prior to Thanksgiving, and will miss the Nov. meeting.

Annual Report & Budget

Annual report and current budget – Anne said she had to pay for printer repair, \$60.00. and noted this year's budget is less that last year's by \$500.00. Members asked if Anne needed *a priori* permission to buy a new printer. Anne said, not yet. Rest of discussion postponed.

Committees

Community Gardens: Durrell – Anne and Leslie reported that Steve Post had all the material he had requested prior to releasing funds for Durrell. Discussion of timing of development followed. Anne was reminded to schedule next Durrell meeting.

Hansen- Michael – a new sign is ready to put up, that also solicits donations for the new garden & par. MK said the Friends of Hansen will need to incorporate as a non-profit so donations will be tax-deductible. He showed a design of the new garden.

Need Committee for Stormwater Management Plan – Anne will write, but need reviewers, at least. CK and DK volunteered to help. Anne said trying to get interns through Tufts Omidyar program to work on public education/participation component.

Meeting adjourned 10:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Anne Phelps, Agent