

**December 4, 2002  
Conservation Commission  
DRAFT Meeting Minutes**

**Meeting Opened** at 7:12 pm, at City Hall Annex, OHCD meeting room.

Present were CC Co-chairs, Delia Kaye and Elisabeth Krautscheid, members John Reinhardt, Janet McGowan, Cassandra Koutalidis, and Michael Fager, Associate John Buchheit, and Agent, Anne Phelps. Also present were Roger Frymire and Daniel Bianco.

Introductions were made: Daniel is interested in becoming an Associate member of the Commission.

Minutes

Minutes from the last meeting (October 23) were reviewed.

**Vote: Motion made by CK to approve the minutes of the last meeting, with minor changes. DK seconded. All in favor.**

**Administration**

Re: OHCD grant of CDBG funds for Durrell – the city law office has the contract and is reviewing it for the CC. The CC asked if it can submit written questions to the attorney reviewing the grant, and also have someone from the law office attend a special meeting of the CC on Jan. 8<sup>th</sup> to answer questions about the contract. CC can send Anne questions by email to forward to the law office, and Anne will keep the CC updated with changes in the contract.

Elisabeth asked the other members if she is still a member. She told the mayor, that though she has moved to Medford, she is willing to remain on the Commission until a replacement is appointed, if the CC has no objection. Some discussion followed, and Elisabeth said she does not want to leave the Commission, if everyone is agreeable to her continuation.

**Old Business**

Annual Report and Budget - Following discussion, Anne agreed to make changes and the CC will vote at next meeting. CC suggested the report be published on the web site.

Update 319 grant – Anne reported that Auditing is still setting up the accounts for the contract, and then can proceed

City Comment Letter (signed by Heather Rowe) on IKEA FEIR to EOEA: Letter was passed out to CC to read. **Anne noted that Rich DiGirolamo said he should be considered the “liaison” for IKEA, but has not contacted the CC since Anne talked to him. CC suggested Anne send a letter to all attorneys/contact persons for IKEA to ask them to designate “official” liaison.**

## **New Business**

### Water chestnut sampling – Roger Frymire

Roger has permit from CC to harvest/remove invasive water chestnuts from Alewife Brook and adjacent water bodies. He said removal program is so successful that he does not want to renew the permit, due to expire next March. He said essentially no water chestnuts in Alewife for past 2 years. He asked CC what they wanted him to do about any water chestnuts found in meantime/and after permit expires? CC asked what he has been doing w/water chestnuts. Roger said he has been composting them. CC asked how water chestnuts spread. Roger said waterfowl probably spread the seeds upstream, and downstream dispersal probably occurred via seeds. Roger said since he has been harvesting early in the year before seed set, the spread of the water chestnuts has been halted. However, Roger said seeds may be viable up to 12 years, and could get future “outbreak” of water chestnuts. CC asked that he continue to formally report any harvesting and occurrence of water chestnuts to CC for duration of permit, and report “informally” after that. Roger said he will send third annual report to Anne.

Roger has been helping with water sampling along Alewife and Mystic River. Somerville outfalls are within Clean Water Act standards for boating during most dry weather tests- Belmont is still way above the limit for bacteria in several of its outfalls. CC suggested sending a letter to the Belmont CC to express our concern that Belmont was doing little to clean up their section of the Alewife. John Reinhardt said he will talk to MyRWA about deciding the most effective way to urge Belmont to comply w/DEP 308 letter to reduce/eliminate CSO discharges to Alewife. Anne will address similar question to Watershed Basin Team and Kwabena. Further action tabled until next meeting.

Quincy Street Park Meeting – Delia reported on the meeting held Mon. Dec.2. , attended by representatives of the CC, Patricia Wild, a local journalist, Maryann Heuston, the Ward Alderman, and residents of the neighborhood around the lot at 14 Quincy Street. Delia will write a summary of the comments for our records. The general view seemed to be that the neighbors want a semi-wild greenspace where children can play. The neighbors want another meeting. Delia will set up the next meeting at the Quincy Street site, probably on a Saturday in January or February, and try to get the neighborhood kids to attend.

Dinner with Groundwork – Delia reported on our “get-acquainted” dinner with GroundworkSomerville board of directors and Jenn Hill last week..

MWRA work at Wellington Bridge (Assembly Square) – East Spot Pond Supply Mains Rehabilitation Project - Although MWRA maintains it is exempt from submitting a NOI for its work to replace pipe under the Wellington Bridge, it has submitted a letter dated Nov. 25, 2001, to the Somerville CC inviting comments on the erosion and control plan for the project. Anne talked to their representative and asked about their plan to stockpile

excavated soil next to the Mystic River. In response, Anne received a letter from MWRA dated Oct. 25, 2002, which amended the previous letter to include new restrictions on stockpiling of soils: MWRA's contractor will not stockpile soils during replacement of water mains and ancillary work, but will truck excavated soils away from site and bring in new soils to the site for backfill of the trench when the work is complete.

MBTA Agency Coordination Meeting – regarding Urban Ring Corridors for mass transit – Anne asked if the CC wanted to attend. The CC has been involved in the past, but is not interested in committing time to this.

Tree letter – A letter was sent to the mayor and copied to the CC, among others, objecting to the actions of a neighbor to remove a tree on his property. The CC noted that an owner is entitled to cut trees on his/her own property. The CC suggested the author should be asked to serve on the city's tree committee, when it is formed.

### **Committees**

Durrell Funding – JB reported on his efforts to get some materials and/or services donated. He talked to Harvard, and was told to submit a “wish list.” Someone said DPW had pavers, and asked Anne to contact them to see if they could be used for Durrell. Anne said she has been trying to coordinate with Crystal to recover a discarded wooden sign behind the Kent St. Apartments to be repainted for use at Durrell – Anne will keep trying.

Hansen- Michael said they are still working on getting the sign.

Need new: Stormwater Management Plan – Anne said next meeting on SMP is Dec. 9<sup>th</sup>, and briefly brought up some items that need input/discussion. CC agreed to table discussion for now, and put as first item under Old Business on Jan. meeting agenda. Someone noted that Watertown has an ordinance that a builder cannot pave more than “X” percentage of a lot. Anne will contact the Watertown agent to get the wording of this ordinance as a model.

Meeting adjourned at 9:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Anne Phelps, Agent