

**February 26, 2003
Conservation Commission
Approved Meeting Minutes**

Meeting opened at City Hall Annex, OHCD conference room at 7:15 pm

Attending: Conservation Commission Chair, Delia Kaye, members Michael Fager, Janet McGowan, John Reinhardt, Lisa Brukilacchio, Associates John Buchheit, Dan Bianco, and Rachel Evans, and Agent, Anne Phelps.

Minutes

Minutes from Jan. 22nd were reviewed.

Vote: Motion made by JR to approve the Jan. 22nd minutes as amended; MF seconded. All in favor.

Administration

Memorandum of Understanding with OHCD regarding funding for Durrell Park

Vote: Motion made by MF to accept the amended Durrell MOU. Seconded by JM. All in favor.

Vote: Motion made by MF to authorize Delia Kaye to sign the MOU on behalf of the Conservation Commission (CC). Seconded by JM. All in favor.

Old Business

Annual Report

Vote: Motion made by DK to accept the revised Annual Report. MF seconded. All in favor.

Open Space Plan revision

Vote: Motion made by DK to approve the Open Space Plan revision as amended. MF seconded. All approved.

Letter to Belmont re: Alewife Brook

Following a discussion about Belmont's apparent lack of action in response to EPA's 308 letters regarding the need to address illegal sanitary hook-ups to storm drains, JR and JM agreed to draft a letter to the Belmont CC, urging Belmont to take constructive action, and circulate the draft to the Somerville CC and to Roger Frymire.

MWRA Work on Water Main -outcome

At the last meeting, the CC directed Anne to send a letter to MWRA directing it to correct the violations before the resumption of work, or within one week, whichever occurs first. Anne delivered the letter, by email, by hand to the work site, and mailed a copy to MWRA. The violations were all corrected, although Anne noted the siltation fence needed to be tied down again in some areas, and there was a possibility that the

flow from de-watering might create an erosion channel to the Mystic River. After discussion it was agreed that Anne should write another letter to thank MWRA for its compliance, and to ask them what seed mixture they will use to reseed the area following construction, for prevention of erosion and sedimentation.

Budget

Our budget is “frozen” at the moment, and we do not know if we can spend any of the funds left in our operating budget. We have about \$2,000 in the revolving garden (CC) fund. That, plus the \$600 in the operating budget for groundskeeping supplies would give us some additional funds for Durrell, if we can spend it.

Anne ordered the new printer, which appears not to be compatible with her computer, and may have to be sent back. The mayor’s office asked that Anne cut about 15% of her budget to help with state aid cuts. Anne cut the \$1,500 earmarked for the 319 grant, since we cannot spend it this fiscal year, anyway.

Anne submitted a request for a PO to pay for attendance at the MACC conference. The PO was disapproved. Dan Bianco may go on his own. Anne will call MACC and let them know.

New Business

Mystic River Spring Clean-up – JR reported on plans for this year’s Mystic Clean Up (May 17), which will be coordinated with the EMPACT kickoff. The CC voted to be an official sponsor, Delia, Lisa and John R. will be our official representatives. Rachel will contact Betty Radwonski (Friends of the Alewife) to help with registration and clean-up, and will try to help with publicity.

Herring Run & 5K Road Race

The race is scheduled for May 3rd, and the route has changed. Start and maybe end point at the new Riverside Park (by Hormel stadium). Plans are still being finalized. The event will be 1-5 pm, instead of during the morning, and will be 5K instead of 10K. Eastern Mountain Sports wants to partner and provide kayaks.

Letter of Support – MyRWA

Anne wrote a letter of support to support an award of grant funding to Mystic River Watershed Association from Massachusetts Environmental Trust for continued water quality monitoring in Mystic River.

Intern from Tufts

Anne has an intern from Tufts (one of Lisa B.’s students) who is working to produce text and digital photos for a brochure on Open Space and Parks in Somerville. Some discussion of how to pay for printing followed.

Award to Bikeway Community Garden

Bikeway Garden won a Certificate of Commendation for Community Gardening from Massachusetts Horticultural Society's 2002 Community Garden and Urban Landscaping Award Program. Avon garden also applied in 2002. Congratulations!

Anne's Performance Evaluation

Anne had asked the CC to review and evaluate her performance, since she has been agent for a year, now. Discussion followed regarding what form, procedure and time frame would best serve. Anne will use a form provided by Somerville Personnel Department, initially, to develop a self-evaluation. The CC will work to develop its own list of goals and priorities. A sub-committee may work on this with Anne, with an approximate time-line of 2-3 months to develop the evaluation, both as a form and as a process.

Committees

Stormwater Management Plan – Anne reported that the plan is in its final stages and she will send it to the Mayor's office on Friday.

Hansen - MF said that SERV will act as the fiscal sponsor for the Friends of Hansen Park, and will not charge, except for services, such as photocopying.

Durrell – Anne left the CC meeting to attend a Housing sub-committee meeting of the BOA to ask the sub-committee to approve the change in use of Durrell Playground to a Community Garden and Pocket Park managed by the CC. The sub-committee approved this change in use, which is necessary, along with mayoral approval, to get the block grant funding from OHCD.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne Phelps, Agent