

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

**Meeting opened** at City Hall Annex, OHCD conference room at 7:08 pm.

Conservation Commission members present were Janet McGowan, Michael Fager, John Reinhardt and Cassandra Koutalidis, Associate member Rachel Evans, and agent Anne Phelps. Also present was Mark MacLean of Metropolitan District Commission (MDC).

Introductions were made.

**Administration**

Minutes

Minutes from February 26<sup>th</sup> were reviewed.

**Vote: Motion made by MF to approve the February 26<sup>th</sup> minutes as amended; JM seconded. All in favor.**

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**Hearing for MDC** opened at 7:10 pm, and closed at 7:45 pm.  
DEP File # 287-0022.

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**Meeting resumed at 7:46pm.**

Mark MacLean left, and CC Chair Delia Kaye, who had recused herself from the hearing, and Associate John Buchheit arrived late to attend the remainder of the meeting.

MOU with OHCD

Delia, whom the CC has authorized to sign the contract with OHCD for Block Grant funds for Durrell, will be on vacation for 3 weeks. The CC agreed that, if she is not here when a CC signature is needed, the Commission approves that someone else may sign for her.

**Old Business**

Letter to Belmont regarding Alewife Brook

JR wrote a draft letter to the Belmont CC, urging Belmont to take more action to prevent pollution of Alewife Brook. JR gave the draft to Roger Frymire for comments. Roger responded that there are two outfalls to Little Pond (in Belmont). One is "clean" and one is cleaner than it has been, so Belmont must be making progress. Following discussion, among the CC, it was suggested JR re-write the letter, framing it more as an inquiry to

the Belmont CC (with copies to other relevant departments in Belmont) asking what response they are making to the 308 letter. JR agreed to do this.

#### MWRA Enforcement Order

Following a series of exchanges between Anne and MWRA working to repair a water main at Mystic River Parkway and Alewife Brook Parkway, Mr. Paul Burrige had said he would have a new (entrenched) erosion control and sedimentation fence in place by Friday, March 21. Anne arrived on site about 1:30 pm, to find the new fence was not in place and MWRA personnel were still de-watering the excavation. Anne returned to her office to print an Enforcement Order, which she delivered to the work site and to Mr. Paul Burrige (via email) last Friday, March 21, directing that work cease.

On Monday, March 24, Anne checked the new line of hay bales and sent an email to Paul Burrige that it looked sufficient to control siltation from continued de-watering. Anne said in the email that MWRA could resume work, and only asked Mr. Burrige to contact her to check the efficacy of the new fence when they resumed de-watering the excavation. Mr. Burrige has not contacted Anne to date.

DK said she had visited the site on the way to tonight's meeting. She said the erosion and sedimentation controls on the site are not satisfactory, especially in the case of controlling run-off during rainfall. DK suggested future de-watering be conducted by shifting the hose closer to the road so de-watering flows are directed to the street rather than directly to the resource area.

DK said that further measures should be taken, that is the outer perimeter fence should also be 1) Entrenched, 2) Hay bales should be staked, 3) The Siltation fence should be staked and tucked under the hay bales, which should then be backfilled to prevent the siltation fence from pulling loose from under the hay bales. DK said that we should contact the MWRA Environmental Representative at some point to discuss compliance issues, and maybe this person could be asked to meet with the CC. The CC is in agreement that work should stop until these recommended corrections are made. Anne should send notice to Mr. Burrige to that effect.

**Vote: CK moved to ratify the Enforcement Order issued to MWRA. JR seconded. All approved.**

#### **Budget**

Although the operating budget is frozen, the CC should be able to spend money it collected in garden fees that are in the revolving fund. After discussion, it was decided to spend the full amount of money in the revolving fund to purchase 2 benches for Durrell, 1 for Quincy Street, and spend the remaining money to buy plants (and maybe river stone) to plant at Quincy Street.

**Vote: MF moved to spend the CC discretionary garden money for Quincy and Durrell to purchase benches and plants. DK seconded. All approved.**

## **New Business**

### Mystic River Clean-up (May 17, Rain Date May 18, 9:30 am at Blessing of the Bay Boathouse

JR, DK and LB will be the CC representatives for this event – plans on track.

### Herring Run

Delia is doing a Nature Walk for the Herring run.

### **FYI**

Anne gave talk Mar. 25<sup>th</sup> at Powder House School for EagleEye Institute to 7<sup>th</sup> graders on trees. Anne is giving a talk on Fishes of the Mystic River for High School Students on Wed., April 2, 2003.

## **Committees**

The Quincy Street Committee (Cassandra, Delia, Janet and Anne) agreed to meet after the regular meeting to plan a Clean-up Day for Quincy Street Park.

Meeting adjourned at 9 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne Phelps, Agent