

**City of Somerville
Conservation Commission
Draft Meeting Minutes
November 17, 2004**

- I. Meeting opened** at Office of Strategic Planning and Community Development (SPCD) conference room, 3rd floor of City Hall, 93 Highland Avenue, Somerville, at 7:00 pm.

Present were: Conservation Commission (CC) members John Reinhardt, Michael Fager, Chair, Delia Kaye, Lisa Brukilacchio, Ben Ericson, Cassandra Koutalidis and Stephen Winslow of SPCD. Also present was Gretchen Kinder.

- II. Minutes from Last Meeting:** Approved July and October minutes after proposing several changes for typographical errors.

Motion to Approve: Reinhardt. Seconded: Koutalidis. Unanimously approved.

III. Old Business

1. Community Garden Coordinator: Stephen Winslow will process Gretchen Kinder's W-9 form and develop a requisition for the first \$300. Gretchen needs a list of the gardens, gardeners and their dues to determine who still needs to pay. She plans to update the Commission before its monthly meeting via e-mail update. Stephen, Lisa and Gretchen will meet at the Conservation Commission office on December 3rd at 8:30 am to discuss the role of the Community Garden Coordinator.

IV. New Business

1. Chemical Use: A parent noted that chemical had been used on open space used by children such as the Holland Street Park. Commissioners did not know if the City has any policy related to chemical use and asked Stephen to ask the appropriate staff at DPW for an update on:
 - who the DPW retains for chemical treatment,
 - what the treatment costs the City,
 - how long does treatment occur,
 - how often it occurs,
 - where and when the treatment occurs / schedule,
 - whether there is any selectivity in the location of treatment (avoiding parks frequented by children?) and
 - how long the contract lasts.
2. Mystic Monitoring: Stephen reported that he sent a letter to the Mystic River Watershed Association (MyRWA) in support of a grant application to fund the Mystic water quality-monitoring program. Stephen will send an electronic version of the letter to Commissioners.
3. Mystic River Interpretative Signs: MyRWA decided to place the signs outside the buffer zone since the Department of Conservation and Recreation did not want the hassle of providing information needed for a Determination of No-Applicability. Robin Pftestch of DCR who happened to be present offered to investigate the situation at the encouragement of the Conservation Commission. Stephen agreed to e-mail Robin Pftestch of DCR MyRWA's contact information.

4. Public Meeting on Dilboy Memorial Field Renovations: at this time Robin Pftesch of DCR and John McKinnon of H.W. Moore, DCR's consultant and Rob Del Savio DCR's architect joined the meeting and made a presentation on the DCR's proposal to the Commission.

John McKinnon noted that the DCR hoped to re-instate the previous order of conditions. Chairperson Kaye noted that since three years had passed since the prior order and no request for an extension had been received prior to expiration that the Commission must consider the application as a new application. The NOI must be resubmitted on the most current form. The revised NOI should reference the changes made during the 2001 review including use of a native seed mix and adding information on the resources impacted by the repair of the storm water outfalls.

At this point Mr. McKinnon began a presentation of the proposed renovations particularly noting that there are no significant changes to the 2001 plans. The project will remove the west side grandstand along the Brook, renovate the east side grandstand along the Parkway, and replace the track and field. The plans submitted show the 25-foot riverfront setback and the 100-foot wetland buffer zone. Work within resources areas will be limited to repairing the storm water outfalls as per the modifications to the 2001 Notice of Intent.

Chairperson Kaye asked for the receipts for the abutters mailing. John McKinnon provided them.

The field will be an artificial surface. The existing turf will be removed, a gravel layer installed and then the carpet on top of the gravel. The track will be reconstructed in place with a portion extending from the oval being removed. The removal of the westside grandstand and the oval extension will result in a net loss of impervious surface. The most significant change is the reduction in the east side grandstand from 3000 seats to 2000 seats.

The project schedule will be to put the project out to bid in mid-December. Demolition should begin in March 2005 with completion planned for early 2006.

Response to Questions:

Q: Will the grading impact flood storage?

A: As per the 2001 modifications, grading will actually result in a slight increase in flood storage.

Q: Can the DCR accept the Special Conditions added to the 2001 Order of Conditions?

A: Yes

Q: Will the use of artificial turf increase run-off rates compared to natural turf?

A: No, water can pass through the carpet into the gravel layer and the subsurface drains. Such a drainage system exists there now. Given that much of the existing natural turf is

hard pack dirt, this should not have an adverse impact. Cassandra noted that this system may decrease surface run-off but increase point discharge at the outfall.

Q: Why does the repair of the storm drain use a lot of rip-rap and have such a large outfall pipe (36")?

A: The drain pipe also serves some drains on the parkway. This simply repairs the existing line. Cassandra noted that lots of erosion occurs near the existing outfalls so rip-rap may be needed.

Q: Does DCR have a vacuum truck that can pump-out the deep sump catch basins?

A: Yes

Q: Will there be a concessions stand and what will be the obligation of the concessionaire to pick-up trash?

A: There will be a concession stand. DCR will put out the concession contract out to bid. The typical contract calls for clean-up within 100 feet of the point of sale.

Q: Will sedimentation controls use straw bales or hay bales?

A: Only straw will be used.

Q: What contingency plans will be developed related to the pipelines that cross the site?

A: The oil pipeline is no longer in service. The other pipeline is natural gas. Dig safe will be contacted.

At the end of the discussion it was agreed to continue the hearing until December 1, 2004 at 7 pm provided that DCR re-submits the NOI on the most up to date forms by no later than close of business November 24, 2004.

Motion to continue hearing until December 1 by Ericson. Second by Brukilacchio. Unanimously approved.

V. **Comments / Suggestions**

1. Website: The website should be updated. This would be best done over the winter.
2. SCAT Project: The ConCom agreed to do a program on SCAT. This should be on the agenda for a future meeting.
3. Glen Garden: No Progress to report. Frank Santangelo estimates the cost of organics to be about \$5000. Delia and Lisa believe this can be kept to \$1500 to \$2000. Steve will talk to school building project manager to see if contractor (JW White) provided out-of-specification soil. The contractor may have some good will to provide.
4. Durrell: SCA Consultants and MA DEP do not think Modern Continental snow disposal should have caused elevated lead levels. Commissioners still think that Modern Continental should be off the hook for using City property without permission especially since the soil tested okay before Modern Continental used it. Cassandra offered to contact

an LSP who may do the re-test needed to show that the lead levels across the area do not exceed clean-up levels. In addition to 21E concerns, the City should consider pursuing Modern Continental for trespass damages due to the equipment and snow storage.

5. Conwell Garden: A question has come up as to the status of the Conwell site and whether it will be available next construction season when the school is built. Steve will check if this will be available and if there is a plan to move it elsewhere.
6. Schedule for 2004: The meetings will remain the 4th Wednesday of the month. No meeting will be held in August or December unless required. The November meeting will be held the 3rd Wednesday of the month instead of the 4th.

Motion for Adjournment at 9:05 pm by Fager, Second by Reinhardt. Approved Unanimously

Respectfully submitted,
Stephen Winslow, SPCD