

**City of Somerville
Conservation Commission
Meeting Minutes
February 23, 2005**

- I. Meeting opened** at Office of Strategic Planning and Community Development (SPCD) conference room, 3rd floor of City Hall, 93 Highland Avenue, Somerville, at 7:57 pm. [Note the January 2005 meeting had been canceled due to a snowstorm].

Present were: Conservation Commission (CC) members John Reinhardt, Michael Fager, Chair, Delia Kaye, Cassandra Koutalidis, Lisa Brukalachio and Stephen Winslow of SPCD. Also present was Elizabeth Pyle of Somerville.

Minutes from Last Meeting: The December minutes were approved with minor changes after a motion by M. Fager, seconded by J. Reinhardt. Approval of minutes including minutes from November 2004 and early is necessary at the March 23, 2005 meeting.

II. Financial Report

The Commission reviewed the January 31, 2005 Financial Report from the City. After review, the Commission agreed to do a line item shift of \$400 from the Office Supply line item and \$618 from the Photocopying line item to Professional and Technical Services and \$30 from In-state conferences to Dues and Memberships.

The Commission agreed to spend \$60 on a non-profit membership for the Mystic River Watershed Association.

Commissioners also request that Mr. Winslow ask for reports on the Garden Revolving Fund and the Wetlands Revolving Fund.

III. Old Business

1. None presented

IV. New Business

1. Potential New Member: The Commission welcomed Elizabeth Pyle, a new Somerville Homeowner. Ms. Pyle is an environmental attorney with Anderson and Krieger and is interested in serving on the Commission. Commissioners encouraged her to send a letter to the Mayor requesting to fill the current vacancy on the Commission.
2. Request for Certificate of Compliance: Dilboy Tennis Courts DEP # 287-0022.
The Department of Conservation and Recreation has submitted a request for a Certificate of Compliance for work under the Order of Conditions for the Dilboy Tennis Courts. Stephen Winslow submitted an inspection report that indicated that DCR has complied with all requirements of the Order and recommended issue of the COC.

Motion: by C. Koutalidis, seconded by J. Reinhardt to issue a Certificate of Compliance to the Department of Conservation and Recreation for matter DEP #287-0022.

Motion Approved. Commissioners signed the WPA Form 8B.

3. MBTA/CSX/MBCR Requests for Determinations of Applicability – Pesticide Application Plans
Mr. Winslow discussed three applications submitted by TEC Consulting requesting Determinations of Applicability related to Pesticide [Herbicide] Application Plans for rail lines

operated by the MBTA, CSX and MBCR. None of the applications had been signed by the rail operators and it does not appear that TEC will be applying the herbicides.

The Commission was not comfortable that the rail operators had not signed the RDA and asked Mr. Winslow to contact MA DEP for guidance on whether TEC could be considered the applicant. Mr. Winslow will also research whether the rail operators must file a Notice of Intent to implement any herbicide plan.

Some of the delineations are ten years old and do not even reflect the new rail maintenance building in Somerville. The Commission discussed scheduling a hearing for April to allow Mr. Winslow sufficient time to do receive rail safety training and to perform site visits.

4. Section 319 Grant Implementation: The Vortex unit was installed in December (see news article from Somerville News). The testing has not been done yet. DPW says it will do the testing. Installation costs exceeded the budget. Ms. Kaye pointed out that existing condition testing may not have been done – Jane Peirce at MA DEP should be contacted to confirm this. Also, Ms. Kaye was looking for copies of three most recent quarterly reports sent to MA DEP.
5. Durrell Park / Garden: The Invitation to Bid has been prepared; however, 21E soil contaminant paperwork must either be completed before the IFB goes out or included in the IFB. Ms. Koutalidis mentioned that Steve Smith, LSP, of Geohydrocycle of Newton indicated an interest in helping close-out the MA DEP paperwork. Mr. Winslow will contact him.
6. MWRA Work – Route 28: Mr. Winslow asked if anyone knew about work along Route 28 near the Mystic River being done to replace a large water pipe. Ms. Kaye mentioned that MWRA had informed the Commission about the work and had agreed to notify the Commission when it started the work (although MWRA has an exemption from the notice requirement). Mr. Winslow will contact MWRA regarding the status of the project.
7. Website Update Discussion: Table until later.
8. Garden Coordinator's Report: Reviewed and accepted by the Commission. Mr. Winslow and Ms. Kinder will inspect the gardens on Saturday.
9. Other Items
 - a. Snow at Assembly Square: MA DEP has a snow policy that advises “snow farming” on parking lots at least 50-feet from wetlands. The “snow farm” at Assembly Square appeared to meet this requirement. Mr. Winslow did mention that he called the management company for Assembly Square regarding a practice of plowing snow in towards the Mystic River Reservation at Assembly Square drive.
 - b. MA DEP revised Wetland Regulations – become effective March 1, 2005. Mr. Winslow attended MA DEP's training and will report more on this later.
 - c. MACC Conference: Commissioners asked Mr. Winslow to attend.
 - d. Historic Preservation and Open Space Linkage: the Commission should seek to have a representative appointed.

Motion for Adjournment at 9:50 pm by Fager, Second by Reinhardt. Approved Unanimously

Respectfully submitted,
Stephen Winslow, SPCD