



CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
JOSEPH A. CURTATONE
MAYOR

TUESDAY JULY 27, 2010

MINUTES

MEETING AT SOMERVILLE CITY HALL
93 HIGHLAND AVENUE
3RD FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM
7:00 PM

Commission Members in attendance:

Michael Fager, John Reinhardt, David Turin, Delia Kaye, Owen Wartella, Mathias Neuber

Commission Members absent: Elizabeth Pyle

Others in attendance: Ann Marton (LEC Environmental), Jon Connelly (LEC Environmental), John Hendrickson (Fay, Spofford & Thorndike), Thomas Valton (DCR), Robert Lowell (DCR)

Staff:

Kathleen Ziegenfuss (OSPCD)

AGENDA ITEMS

- I. Membership (7:04)
 - Kathleen has not received a definitive answer as to what the rules are regarding Commissioner's place of residence; she will continue to look into the matter
 - MGL c40 s8C does not state anything about a residency requirement

- II. Notice of Intent for Mystic River Path Extension Test Drill Pits (7:05)
 - Jon Connelly from LEC Environmental provided additional detail to the NOI
 - Details on the work:
 - i. Test pilings are to determine substrate to fully determine which type of helical screws are needed to support the proposed boardwalk.
 - ii. There will be 2-6 test drill pits (total), on both the east and west side of the bridge embankment (however many the Solid Earth Technologies (SET) can do in one day)
 - iii. In terms of location, all test drill pits will be done under the footprint of the proposed bridge; the first two will be at the sharp curves and then they will progressively get closer to the shore
 - iv. Hand-held equipment will be used, contractors doing work will wade into the water with tools (causing minor disturbance to the resource area)
 1. Hydraulic machine with generator will be used
 2. Borings will turn in, not be pounded in
 3. Materials will be brought to staging area with a wheelbarrow, and with the use of plywood
 - v. Depth of test drill will be until they hit resistance
 - vi. Staging will be on both sides of the bridge
 - vii. The 100 square feet of disturbed area of land under water bodies was an estimate of the total maximum area that would be disturbed by these test drills
 - Details on correspondence with NHESP:
 - i. NHESP received the NOI on July 22

CITY HALL • 93 HIGHLAND AVENUE • SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS 02143
(617) 625-6600 EXT. 2500 • TTY: (617) 666-0001 • FAX: (617) 625-0722

www.somervillema.gov



- ii. Aware of the nesting common terms
- iii. 100' buffer around the nest may not reach the limit of work; but want to take extra precaution
- Additional information requested:
 - i. Show the staging area of work on the plan
 - ii. Write down the maximum number of borings that will be undertaken on the plan
 - iii. For the next NOI submittal (the boardwalk), the Commission wants:
 - 1. A 300' buffer from the limit of work to be included in the abutters list, and to notify people who came to past meetings on the project
 - 2. It to be known there is a herring run in the Mystic River; work will be prohibited during that time (approximately April 15 – June 15, Kathleen to confirm the dates)
 - 3. Kathleen to send FST and LEC the condition on Ipe wood that was used in the Alewife Greenway OOC
 - iv. What type of generator will be used?

Voted Actions Taken:

To close the hearing 287-0032 for the Mystic River Path Extension Helical Screw 'Test Drills' pending receipt of revised plans and contingent upon NHESP correspondence.

- Move to approve: Delia Kaye (7:40)
- Second: Owen Wartella
- Vote: all in favor
- Kathleen and Michael Fager to revise the OOC, and have it completed by Friday August 13. Commissioners will come by City Hall to sign the OOC either Friday August 13, Monday August 16, or Tuesday August 17. Kathleen will then issue the OOC.

III. Alewife Brook Parkway outfall pipe repairs (7:43)

- Thomas Valton and Robert Lowell presented information on the conditions of an outfall pipe to Alewife Brook
- Drainage problems at 600 Mystic Valley Parkway
 - i. Current site of U-Haul building
 - ii. Before U-Haul there was a railroad siting facility (approximately 1950s)
 - iii. Drainage pipes now pass through and under the U-Haul building
- There are two sewer/stormwater lines coming out of same manhole
 - i. 18" older line is collapsed, sometimes there is a dribble of water
 - 1. Runs under a heavily wooded area
 - ii. 15" pipe is to the south of the 18" pipe, and is undersized for current loads
 - 1. Runs under a more grassy area
 - iii. Both pipes drain the same system
 - iv. DCR wants to cut off the 18" pipe completely and replace the 15" pipe with a 24" pipe
 - v. Gas pipe (Algonquin) about 7' down (24" gas line)
- DCR has received two complaints since March on the system overflowing; in addition, about one complaint per year
- Commission informed DCR that they would need to go through the normal permitting channels, submitting an NOI for the proposed work, as no public official has deemed this an emergency.
 - i. Information on watershed should be included
 - ii. Applicant should consider pulling the outfall back from the brook as to not discharge directly into the Brook
 - iii. NOI should include information that supports the size of the recommended pipe

IV. Old Business (8:03)

- Community Gardens
 - i. Map on the website
 - ii. Website updated
- PARC grants – late August decision

- 2010 Yearly Operational Plan, Massachusetts Bay Commuter Railroad Co.
- 2010 Yearly Operational Plan, Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority
 - i. YOP comment period is over
 - ii. Issue with part of Somerville commuter rail right of way (unidentified in the plans) will be addressed in next operational plan

V. New Business (8:40)

- Quincy Street Park letter

Voted Actions Taken:

To have Delia Kaye write a letter on behalf of the Commission explaining the Commission's understanding of the history and intent of Quincy Street Park.

- Move to approve: John Reinhardt
- Second: Owen Wartella
- Abstain: David Turin
- Vote: 5 in favor

- Alewife Greenway – erosion controls
 - To the area south of Broadway, straw bales will be used in place of the compost sock due to rough terrain, uneven surfaces
 - Commission requested silt fences be added to the straw bales if possible
 - Kathleen to check erosion controls the week of August 2

VI. Approval of Minutes (8:17)

- July 27, 2010
 - Approved as amended
 - Move to approve: Delia Kaye
 - Second: John Reinhardt
 - Vote: All in favor

VII. News/Updates (8:19)

- SomerStreets, East Broadway July 25, 12:00 – 4:00
- The Incredible Edible Gardens of Somerville: A Self-Guided Tour, July 25, 11:00 – 5:00

VIII. Other Updates (8:20)

- Flooding in Somerville
 - i. In light of all the recent flooding in Somerville, the Conservation Commission decided to write a letter to the City requesting greater awareness of the potential contamination of the water that floods in the event of a heavy storm
 - ii. David Turin to draft letter and bring to next Conservation Commission meeting
- Recruitment
 - i. Two positions to be potentially filled/replace existing members
 - ii. Would like to see announcement in the SomerStat notice
 - iii. Also, update the Conservation Commission website to announce that we are looking for new Commissioners

IX. Adjourn (8:28)

- Move to adjourn: Delia Kaye
Second: Mathias Neuber
Vote: all in favor

For more information contact Kathleen Ziegenfuss at 617-625-6600 x2519.

