

**City of Somerville
Conservation Commission
Meeting Minutes - Final
September 27, 2006**

I. Administrative Matters

Meeting opened at Office of Strategic Planning and Community Development (SPCD) conference room, 3rd floor of City Hall, 93 Highland Avenue, Somerville, at 7:15 pm.

Present were: Conservation Commission (CC) members John Reinhardt, Elizabeth Pyle and Michael Fager. Not Present: Lisa Brukilacchio, Cassandra Koutalidis and Delia Kaye.

Additional attendees: Stephen Winslow, Conservation Agent to the Commission. Mathias Neuber, Commission Nominee, Kate Dunlap ENSR and Tufts Students.

The Commissions present decided to proceed with reports but could not act on any matter due to the lack of a quorum.

Minutes from Last Meeting: The July 26, 2006 – were not approved due to a lack of a quorum.

Membership: Mathias Neuber met with the Mayor. His nomination is now pending with the Board of Alderman.

II. Wetland Hearings

A. none

III. Financial Report

A. Funds from General Fund Account

No Report this month

IV. Old Business

A. Community Gardens

- i. Allen Street / Durrell Garden: S. Winslow reported that a design had been completed for Allen Street. The next phase of the work involved issuing an RFP for construction and completing the brownfields clean-up at Allen Street.
- ii. Garden Coordinator: Rowan Harrison will be resigning as garden coordinator at the end of the year.

B. Shore Drive Matter

Commissioner Chair Pyle and S. Winslow reported that they had met with Mr. Fitzgerald to further discuss the issue. The meeting focused on a proposal to have Mr. Fitzgerald buy and plant native shrubs under the auspices of the DCR. Commissioner Kaye will develop the plant list. S. Winslow will contact DCR to seek their approval. Mr. Fitzgerald pointed out that there was an illegal dock on the water front and a fallen tree limb. S. Winslow agreed to follow-up on these issues.

C. Dilboy Field – no report

D. Dilboy Playground

DCR submitted a mitigation plan that will be presented and discussed at the next meeting.

V. New Business

A. **Dog parks / Dog Owners Task Force:** Carlene Campbell of SPCD and the lead staffer of the Dog Owners Task Force met with the Commissioners present to talk about a letter the Commission had sent regarding possible locations for a dog park on the Community Path. The Commission's letter had expressed concern that a location near Cedar Street would impact plantings made by the Garden Club. Ms. Campbell explained that she had spoken to both the Garden Club and Groundwork Somerville regarding the plantings and both groups expressed that the plantings could be relocated if need be. She also noted that the three possible locations for the park were very preliminary. The Willow Street location the Con Com prefers has not been supported by the neighbors.

M. Fager expressed that the Con Com should be consulted whatever location proceeds. Ms. Campbell noted that the Dog Owners meet on the 2nd Thursday of the month.

The Alderman have adopted an ordinance creating a thorough community input process for identifying dog park locations. She also noted that SomDog, a non-profit separate from the City has helped raised money for the dog parks.

At this point only Nunziato field has a dog park. Perry Park and Kemp Nut Park were also potential locations for dog parks.

VI. Communications

1. Website: No update.

VIII. Other Updates

1. None.

The members present left about 8:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Stephen Winslow, SPCD

Final Minutes Approved: 10-25-06