

**Conservation Commission
Meeting Minutes, July 24, 2002**

Open meeting/introduction

The meeting was opened at 7:10 pm. Attendees were Conservation Commission chair, Cassandra Koutalidis, and members, Elisabeth Miley, Michael Fager, and Lisa Brukilacchio, Associate Member, Rachel Evans and Agent, Anne Phelps.

Attending for Tufts were Vithal Despande, DPW, and John Durant, Tufts University.

Attending for Gentle Giant Rowing Club were Gracio Garcias and Allan Gehant.

Introductions were made. The minutes of the CC meeting from June 26 were reviewed and discussed.

Vote: Cassandra moved to approve the amended minutes of June 26. Lisa seconded. All approved.

The agenda was accepted, with minor modifications: and the CC agreed to discuss Lincoln School under “Old Business” first, since 2 members of the CC needed to leave early.

Old Business

Lincoln Park – MF reported on his attendance at the State Legislature’s hearing of the Home Rule petition regarding the Lincoln Park land conversion. He sent out a draft letter of findings via e-mail, but said he only presented verbal testimony at the hearing because the CC had not voted on the wording of the findings yet. The CC discussed the letter’s wording and who should receive it. Michael said the legislature had sent the Home Rule petition back into committee, which means it will not be reconsidered this year. Anne should ask Jennifer Soper when EOEAs wants/needs information (the findings letter), or whether the letter should go to someone else. Elisabeth will talk to National Park Service about what they might want/need from the CC on this issue.

319 Grant –Anne reported that Jane had approved the Budget and the Scope of Services, and sent paperwork preliminary to signing a contract. Jane knows Thom Donohue has retired, but that he is working part-time for the city, and can help supervise this grant. The final budget is slightly over \$119,000.

IKEA – CK reported on meeting with Peter Richardson (Green, Intl.), Tuck O’Brien, and Anne to hear and discuss Green’s review of IKEA’s stormwater management plans and related issues on Friday, July 22 at the Annex. CK has made a list of Peter’s comments, with annotations for status, such as whether a response from VHB is still needed, whether the item needs to be part of the Order of Conditions (OOC), etc. CK asked that all review the comments before the hearing to see where there are gaps, and whether there are additional questions.

North Point EIR – CK has spoken with the Cambridge engineers about this. There have been a number of “back-ups” in the area. CSOs are currently plugged by MWRA, and there are a number of drainage issues that must be resolved. MEPA has required North Point to consult with the Somerville CC (part of their response to JR and JB’s comment letter). CK said we should become more informed, talk to MWRA, and try to prepare ourselves to collaborate. John R. should contact MWRA and CK will try to find out where North Point is in the process. Rachel suggested we schedule them to attend our Sept. meeting. Elisabeth used to work for MWRA, and volunteered to contact them for further information.

Administration

The procedural meeting is still scheduled for July 31 at City Hall annex at 7pm.

Annual Report & Budget

A year-end report, “Highlights 2002” was submitted by Anne, along with a summary of the general operating budget. The CC requested this be attached to a more formal report for circulation/publication. Anne noted that the CC voted to spend \$150 on Tufts and Conwell, but was not able to do so, and said that commitment should carry over to FY03. Anne forgot to order a sign for Bikeway from Avey, and will do that this summer, too.

Gentle Giant Rowing Club Hearing Opened approximately 9:00 pm, and, following discussion, Continued to Wed. July 31.

Tufts-EMPACT Hearing Opened at 9:55 and continued until July 21, 2002.

Conservation Restriction for Union Place: Anne briefly described the Planning Board’s need for the CC to vote to approve a Conservation Restriction for portions of land set aside as open space at Union Place Phase I development. The CC briefly discussed wording of signs that might be placed on the property to inform the public about access and use.

Roger Frymire- Cassandra explained that Roger’s equipment had been stolen and said she would like to ask for donations for lost equipment.

All other business on the agenda postponed.
Meeting closed at 10:42 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Anne Phelps, Agent and Greenspace Coordinator