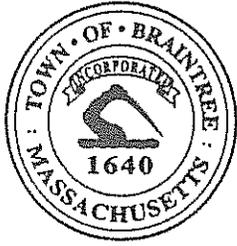


APPROVED



Mayor Joseph C. Sullivan

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**CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
THURSDAY, AUGUST 13, 2009 7PM
FLETCHER HALL – TOWN HALL**

Members Present: Patrick Flynn, Chair
Matthew Hobin
Gus Murphy
Alan Weinberg

Staff: Kelly Phelan

DEP File # 8-593/Bestick Road Area Flood Control Project

Robert Campbell, Town Engineer was present to update the Commission. This is a pilot project to address long-term flooding problems with the brook which runs behind Bestick Road. A large watershed area drains to the brook. The project has been evaluating ways to minimize flooding. The proposal is to store flood waters from high-intensity storms in the large wetland area behind Bestick Road and slowly meter it through the stream channel. [He also noted previous work done to address this problem included the detention basin behind the Archbishop Williams field on Storrs Ave. The Mason's donated the land for the basin and Archbishop Williams School provided the engineering and construction of the basin during their field construction. Also the field itself is pervious. The field is artificial turf over a bed of gravel and sand and it stores water which is slowly released.]

Mr. Campbell explained that portions of the wetland behind Bestick Road are privately-owned and he is still pursuing sign-offs from three property owners.

Mr. Weinberg noted that it is a good project and it is needed to stop flooding. He also offered to help contact the three owners to obtain their permission.

Mr. Flynn advised Mr. Campbell to ask for help with getting the signatures if he needs it.

Mr. Campbell said he could ask the consultant involved with the project to take this on. He also gave the Commission copies of the letters sent to these property-owners for the file.

Mr. Weinberg clarified that the stormwater infiltrates the artificial turf field rather than running off it. Dave Crispin, BSC Group, worked on the field project and happened to be present for another agenda item. Mr. Crispin explained that under the rubberized field material is 12" of gravel and 2" of stone and the field surface allows water to percolate into that.

Motion by Mr. Murphy, second by Mr. Hobin to continue the public hearing to September 24th. Vote: 4-0.

153 Edgehill Road

Paul Raynard and Elizabeth Luise, owners of 153 Edgehill Rd., were present to follow up on the discussion with the Commission from the June 25th meeting regarding encroachment onto the town-owned land behind the house. Mr. Raynard provided photos showing that the old shed (which was largely on the town property) had been removed and a new one constructed on Mr. Raynard's property.

Ms. Luise showed the Commission a catalog with the bulbs they intended to plant to create the low-growing, fire-break vegetation strip discussed on the 25th. Mr. Flynn said something like a native seed mix to would be more appropriate. The intention is for this to be something that will be mowed once a year to keep it open, but otherwise it is to be left alone.

Staff recommended one of the various seed mixes from New England Wetland Plants and will work with Mr. Raynard and Ms. Luise on the details.

Blue Hill Cemetery

Dave Crispin, BSC Group, Gerald Ridge Jr, Blue Hill Cemetery and David Howell, Derenzo Contracting were present. Staff received a call from one of the neighbors about possible encroachment into the wetlands, scheduled a site visit and saw stockpiles and encroachment into the wetlands. At that time staff requested Mr. Ridge have a survey done to determine the extent of the encroachment as well as a plan to remedy it and prevent it from occurring again.

Mr. Crispin gave the Commission copies of the survey plan as well as a written plan for how they will address it. He noted that the wetland boundary had been delineated about two years ago during an Abbreviated Notice of Resource Area Determination process. Mr. Crispin pointed out an area of encroachment of about 700 square feet into the edge of the wetland and a large stockpile of gravel about 25 feet from the wetland. The plan is to move the gravel to an area outside of the 100 foot buffer and remove the material which has fallen into the 700 square foot area. That area will be excavated down to organic soil. Silt fence will be installed as shown on the plan.

Staff asked how they would prevent this from happening again. Mr. Howell stated that they would maintain the silt fence and keep a log with monthly inspection records of the silt fence condition.

Mr. Crispin said they would provide the Commission a report when the remediation work is complete in about three weeks.

The Commission was satisfied that the Cemetery was addressing and correcting the problem.

Taber Court Appraisals

Staff noted that this was the riverfront property that the Commission had visited recently to determine if there was interest in acquiring it. Staff provided quotes from several appraisers for an appraisal of the property and recommended going with John McGovern (at \$1000) and Adam Hardej (at \$1850).

Motion by Mr. Weinberg, second by Mr. Hobin, to move forward with two appraisals at \$1000 and \$1850. Vote: 4-0.

Conservation Land Sign Board

Staff gave the Commission cost information on a pre-made sign board from a park equipment supply company. The board was \$638 plus shipping. Mr. Murphy said he thought it was too much money and that someone could construct one for much less money. Staff said that Daryn Brown, the Braintree Golf Course Manager, had offered to have his staff construct these boards but that they would not be able to do it until later in the fall. Given the need to post the Conservation Land Rules and Regulations, staff was concerned about waiting until later in the fall. Mr. Flynn suggested just laminating the Rules and Regulations and posting them to a tree at the entrance.

Staff noted that the Rules and Regulations refer to the Commission's possible adoption of a hunting policy and asked if the Commission was going to do that before hunting season begins in October. The Commission felt that they should address this issue prior to hunting season and asked staff to post this discussion for the September 10th meeting and let the neighbors in the Cranberry Pond area know.

Approval of Minutes

Motion by Mr. Weinberg, second by Mr. Murphy, to accept the minutes of July 16, 2009. Vote: 4-0.

Motion to Adjourn

Motion by Mr. Weinberg at 8:20 PM, second by Mr. Murphy, to adjourn the meeting. Vote: 4-0.