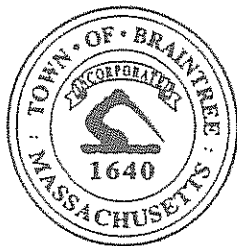


Department of Planning and Community Development

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Mayor Joseph C. Sullivan

Braintree Conservation Commission

Patrick Flynn, Chair
Donald Murphy, Vice-Chair
Diane Francis
Matthew Hobin
Daniel J. McMorrow, Jr.
Gail Poliner-Feldman
Alan Weinberg

Staff Kelly Phelan

CONSERVATION COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES THURSDAY, JUNE 2, 2011

Members Present: Patrick Flynn, Chair
Gail Feldman
Diane Francis
Matthew Hobin
Gus Murphy
Alan Weinberg

Staff: Kelly Phelan

APPROVED

Public Hearings

Notice of Intent DEP File # not received yet Watson Park –Gordon Rd./Department of Public Works

Mr. Flynn stated that he understood there was concern about parking at Watson Park but that the Commission's role is administering the Wetland Protection Act.

Tom Whalen, Director of the Braintree Department of Public Works, was present with Brandon Riley from Warner Larson Landscape Architects and Mark Piermarini from Hamwey Engineering Inc.

Councilors Hank Joyce and Thomas Bowes were also present.

Mr. Whalen presented the proposal for a splash pad behind the existing playground at Watson Park. He said the pad will be 3600 sq. ft. with spray features and that a stone dust walking path will be extended to provide access to the pad. He said they plan to add additional parking (under a separate Notice of Intent) in 3 areas. One will have 64 spots, the second 34 spots and 27 spots.

Mr. Weinberg asked if the walking path will connect with the existing Tolland trail to Smith Beach. Mr. Whalen said it will.

Mr. Flynn asked staff about the comment in her staff report regarding the rain garden. Staff said she is concerned about the high groundwater and that the engineer would be addressing this.

Brandon Riley, from Warner Larson Landscape Architects, continued the presentation. He said the splash pad goes in existing lawn area and there will be a 12' x 16' precast filter building adjacent to the pad. The building will house the equipment. The finished floor elevation will be at elevation 13 feet, above the floodplain elevation of 12 feet (NGVD). He said there will be a diverter valve and when the park is not in operation the stormwater which falls on the pad will be diverted to the rain garden. There will also be swales on either side of the splash pad to direct runoff around the pad to the rain garden.

Mark Piermarini, P.E. from Hemway Engineering said he raised the grade of the bottom of the rain garden to be above the water table and added an overflow pipe to the river. He said the rain garden is sized for a 2 inch storm. He said utilities (water, sewer and electric) run from Gordon Rd. to the filter building.

Mr. Weinberg asked about security. Mr. Riley said they may include motion-activated flood lights and there will be a four foot fence surrounding the splash pad.

District Four Councilor, Hank Joyce, said he spoke with other towns who have these pads and they have experienced very little vandalism.

Ms. Feldman asked how deep the water is and about liability. Mr. Joyce there is no standing water. Mr. Whalen said there is less liability with a splash pad than with a pool.

Mr. Flynn asked for comment from the public. Andy Buttaro said that the area regularly floods from rain events and often has 6 inches of standing water and asked how the splash pad would impact flooding. Mr. Piermarini said the rain garden will handle every day storm events and that larger storms will overflow the river.

Mr. Buttaro asked what chemicals would be used in the splash pad and if it's safe to use them near the river. Mr. Riley said they would use chlorine and the concentration in the spray water would be minimal and less than pool water.

Mr. Weinberg asked if they are getting Planning Board approval. Staff said they are asking for a waiver.

Mr. Murphy asked staff about the rain garden. Staff said it was her suggestion because it is a low impact way to provide filtering and infiltration of stormwater. She said that the pollutant load on the splash pad would be very low (unlike a parking lot or roadway) and the rain garden provides filtering of the minimal pollutant load. Her concern was that the high groundwater may prevent infiltration and create ponding in the rain garden. Mr. Peirmarini added an overflow pipe to the river which should address this.

Ms. Feldman asked if this is suitable location for a splash pad. Mr. Buttaro said he did not agree with paving an area along the river. Staff said that because the area is already a park and a lawn area with baseball fields, she did not see it a large impact.

Mr. Hobin said he thought it was a great place but that parking was needed.

Mr. Weinberg asked staff about floodplain calculations. Staff said that compensatory flood storage is not required for coastal floodplain.

Mr. Flynn said that in his experience as former director of the MDC/DCR, splash pads are very low-maintenance and provide a lot of fun for not a lot of money. He also said he did not see the small footprint of the pad as having an impact on the river.

Councilor Joyce said he thinks the pad will complement the park and he hopes the Town can add more when economic conditions improve.

Mr. Buttaro said that the pad is not popular with the residents living at the end of Gordon Rd. He asked if the pad might be moved to be at the other end of the park, closer to the parking. Mr. Flynn said not unless the Commissioners motioned to require this and asked for the input from the other Commissioners.

Mr. Weinberg said that traffic flow has to be maintained and parking spread out.

Motion by Mr. Weinberg, second by Mr. Murphy, to continue the hearing to June 16th for draft conditions.

Ms. Feldman asked for further discussion. She asked if the neighbors have been informed and if there have been neighborhood meetings. Mr. Whalen said there have been numerous meetings over the last few years about the Peterson Pool and the park. He said there was a meeting with the neighbors two weeks ago about the splash pad. Mr. Buttaro said that not all of the neighbors were at the meeting and that there is some strong opposition to the splash pad.

Mr. Flynn told Mr. Buttaro that he could forward comments relative to the Wetlands Protection Act to staff and staff would forward them to the Commission.

Discussion on the above motion concluded. Vote: 6-0.

**Notice of Intent DEP File # 8-606
915-1001 Liberty St./Sun Valley Estate's Homeowner's Association**

Jim Burke, Civil Engineer, was present with Anthony LaPuma, representing the Sun Valley Homeowner's Association.

Mr. Burke said Sun Valley consists of 11 homes accessed by a common driveway. There are a couple of different Orders of Conditions on the project. Another engineer is doing the as-built plans for two of the lots (plots 17 and 18). He said the project was never finished and the homeowners area trying to bring things up to a level of livability.

A retaining wall abutting wetlands is in disrepair and falling apart. Stormwater flows over it. They propose fixing the wall, adding a cape cod berm around the top of it and adding a deep sump catch basin with outfall to rip rap.

Mr. Flynn said cape cod berm is temporary, it breaks down quickly and is not effective.

Mr. Burke said the repair work on the wall would be done by putting an excavator in the driveway and have it pull stones back into the wall. This would be done in dry weather though the wetland has been holding about 2 feet of water so a boom or other sedimentation control may be necessary.

Mr. Burke said the proposal also includes widening a portion of the common driveway to allow for parking of 12 cars. This would add 3000 sq. ft. of pavement. This not change the runoff curve number for overall site coverage. The runoff would go to a new catch basin which outlets to the wetland.

Another area of work is to relocate a portion of the common driveway so that it aligns with the access easement. A retaining wall along a slope is necessary for this.

Ms. Feldman asked about the lots that don't have a Certificate of Compliance. Mr. Burke said another engineer is working on that. Mr. LaPuma said that lots 17 and 18 are working with an engineer but that lot 18 was recently sold and the old owner has until July 31st to complete the as-built work for this lot. If this is not done, the new owner will receive escrow money to complete this.

Ms. Feldman asked about flooding. Staff said a few years ago, the Commission had spent months evaluating drainage concerns from Sun Valley residents. The Commission explored every avenue, the engineering department was also involved. She said that in the end, they concluded that the problem is that the wetland is basically a bowl which doesn't drain below a certain level.

Mr. Murphy asked why the owners of lots 16, 17 and 18 didn't get Certificates of Compliance. Mr. LaPuma said that their title attorney didn't raise the outstanding Order of Conditions when they were purchasing these lots. He said the attorney for the recent sale of lot 16 did require a financial hold back.

Mr. Weinberg suggested that infiltration blocks be used for the additional parking rather than asphalt. He also said that there is drainage underneath Grove St. /behind Tedeschi Plaza which could be an issue.

Mr. Burke said providing stormwater detention could be a legal quagmire because it would be on someone's lot. He said they are trying to deal with water quality and address the rest of the stormwater standards to the maximum extent practical.

Staff suggested a site visit. She also said that the Town Solicitor advised including a condition in an Order issued to for this project which requires compliance with the outstanding Order for the 3 lots (16, 17 and 18).

Motion by Mr. Hobin, second by Mr. Weinberg, to continue the hearing to June 16th to allow for a site visit. Vote: 6-0.

The site visit was tentatively scheduled for Thursday, June 9th at 4:30 PM.

Request for Determination of Applicability – MBTA Right of Way Vegetation Management/TEC Associates

Staff said that the site visit (via the railroad vehicle) had taken place and recommended issuing the negative Determination. Motion by Mr. Murphy, second by Ms. Feldman, to issue the negative Determination of Applicability. Vote: 6-0.

Request for Determination of Applicability – MBCR Right of Way Vegetation Management/TEC Associates

Staff said that the site visit (via the railroad vehicle) had taken place and recommended issuing the negative Determination. Motion by Mr. Murphy, second by Ms. Feldman, to issue the negative Determination of Applicability. Vote: 6-0.

Other Business

Conservation Fund

Staff said she talked to the Town Treasurer, Alicia McOsker about the conservation fund. It has been earning only about \$1200 interest a year. Ms. McOsker suggested moving the fund to a two-year CD. She said that municipal funds can't be invested longer than two years.

Staff recommended setting aside funds which will be needed for the next two years (Sunset Lake stormwater project, ranger, etc) and move the rest to the two-year CD.

Motion by Ms. Francis, second by Ms. Feldman, to transfer \$420,000 of the conservation fund to the CD. Vote: 6-0.

Motion by Ms. Feldman, second by Mr. Murphy, to transfer the balance (approximately \$46,308) to the account from which the Commission spends. Vote: 6-0.

Sunset Lake Stormwater Grant

Staff gave the Commission on update on the Sunset Lake stormwater improvements project. DEP gave notice to proceed and staff obtained proposals for the final design. Staff said she expected the final design to be done in mid-July and permitting done over the latter part of the summer and construction to begin in the fall.

Sunset Lake Weed Treatment

Staff said that the weed treatment program has begun. There is an infestation of fanwort in the cove which is being treated with Sonar. Growth of other weeds in the rest of the lake will be evaluated as part of the regular weed treatment program.

Minutes

Motion by Ms. Francis, second by Mr. Hobin, to accept the May 5 minutes. Vote: 6-0.

Adjourn

Motion by Mr. Murphy, second by Mr. Weinberg, to adjourn the meeting at 9:10 PM. Vote: 6-0.