

TOWN OF
STONEHAM
MASSACHUSETTS
Town Hall
35 Central Street

Stoneham Conservation Commission
781-279-2696

STONEHAM CONSERVATION COMMISSION MINUTES OF MEETING
AUGUST 29 2022 REMOTE 7 PM

Please join meeting from your computer, tablet or smartphone. <https://meet.goto.com/939347773>
You can also dial in using your phone. US: [+1 \(786\) 535-3211](tel:+17865353211) Access Code: 939-347-773

Ellen McBride, Bob Parsons, Rob Fotino, Alex Rozycki, Jess Gerke, Domenick Cimina, Talia Quinn, Dennis Sheehan, Sarah Zeiberg, Raymie Parker, Charles Houghton, Matthew McComb, Marcia

DISCUSSION

State Opportunities

Representative Mike Day and Senator Jason Lewis

Potential grants at state level to protect natural resources

Inflation Reduction Act passed per Ellen McBride with monies budgeted towards climate change. Sarah Zeiberg District Director for Senator Lewis shares storm water management, watershed, climate change, MVP program has state and federal dollars. Happy to provide letter of support for Stoneham projects. Office of Coastal Zone Management and DEP has opportunities, storm water management hot topic in Environmental protection. Working group with cities of Malden, Everett and Revere and meets once a month to clean out fuel culverts. Short construction season, bringing stake holders together. DPW and city/town councilors plus DCR and Mass DOT meet so as projects develop office happy to talk to what working groups have been successful.

Ellen McBride looks for advice for what is available so a project is geared to it. Water shed study for river and stream cleanups, invasive removal and wetlands restoration. Stoneham has many wetlands.

Bob Parsons is curious about how earmarks are hatched. How does Stoneham get on the list of pursuing funding opportunities other than come up with a list of projects? How as a Town do we capitalize on the support available? Are you seeing things at state level that we aren't seeing? How can we best advocate for Stoneham?

Alex Rozycki speaks to Reading working with Seth Moulton and Senator Lewis on earmarking project through Senate. Shovel ready projects. Mystic Collaborative and Mystic Valley watershed, MAAPC has climate resilient opportunities.

Talia Quinn mentions passed yearly budget without specific earmarks but did provide funding to offices. DCS and EEA have a variety of grants that seem applicable to water quality testing. Grant deadlines are refunded annually and shape projects to grant outlines for next year. Earmarks and funding conversations like this help, so if Stoneham can be very specific it will help as opportunities arise.

Bob Parsons how do you initiate process of earmarking? Resource area delineation process. Is it a letter of interest? Does it have to be through MVP process?

Dennis Sheehan CDC brought idea forward to Capen St playground from Senator Lewis' office.

Sarah Zeiberg- timeline for soliciting earmark request: budget done in May in Senate. Timeframe for shovel ready project is early spring. Specific project with a onetime infusion of dollars from the state. Fiscal year guaranteed money if in final budget. Bond earmarks allows state to borrow money toward project and at discretion of executive branch, Stoneham should be thinking of shovel ready project proposed in early spring to Senator Lewis' office as a watershed or environmental project. One time infusion of state money to complete.

Bob Parsons asks if earmarks can go towards studies. Sarah Zeiberg confirms yes.

Dennis Sheehan earmarks are \$100,000 or less. Huge infrastructure may need multiple grants, depends on scope.

Alex Rozycki talks about timeline and project concept. Need to determine project success so it can be tangible. Mystic River Watershed developed project.

Ellen McBride needs help determining which project to focus on and move through process.

Bob Parsons MVP community should likely include Conservation more and be more engaged.

Is Erin Wortman only grant writer? Ellen McBride asks, Dennis Sheehan answers Chief Grafton and Brett Gonsalves write grants also. Earmark and MAPC grants are not cumbersome. Finished picture is more likely to be approved per Alex Rozycki.

Bob Parsons talks about Town Commitment. Dennis Sheehan confirms it can be applied for multiple years and Town sends in multiple requests.

Sarah Zeiberg offers help to develop projects. Talia Quinn wants to continue conversation. Helpful to show project success somewhere else. DCR projects and MWRA regarding watershed studies are current.

Dennis Sheehan thanks offices for street sweeper which should help storm water.

Bob Parsons mentions talking within Town as to priorities and grants for Conservation.

Dennis Sheehan talks about keeping Conservation in the conversation for project queue. Ellen McBride notes water shed analysis needed.

MVP project puts us in a good spot to fund next year per Alex Rozycki. Bob Parsons wants to keep connection open. Horsely Witten status update from Jen to know how they are doing. Ellen McBride mentions talking to high school about restoration and involving students. Bob Parsons asks who is managing, Dennis Sheehan mentions call with Horsely Witten Jen so she can engage with high school team and also come to Conservation Commission.

Veterans Lane #297-0407

Brett Gonsalves

Update

Owner has covid and restoration has been delayed. Brett Gonsalves will let us know when it begins.

11 Birch Street

Charles Houghton/Scott Green

Letter for review

Scott Green sent plan from Paul Finnochio Surveyor and Jack Sullivan PE showing a swale.

Plan received at close of business today. Ellen McBride and Bob Parsons have not reviewed.

Grading was contradictory to approved plan.

Ellen McBride states 7 and 9 were built lower than engineered, 11 built as engineered. 9 Birch shouldn't take on water because of 11 Birch St. Ellen McBride expected to see drainage plan.

Scott Green said he could put a berm or a swale. Engineer Paul Finnochio thought this was a better plan. No grass currently, Scott Green said he built houses at proper height.

9 Birch St Cathy Li will not have water issues per Scott Green. Certificate of occupancy sign off postponed until plan can be reviewed.

Charles Houghton asked that we not hold up process until September 19, 2022. Asked if PE and POS stamped plans suffice.

Scott Green said slope is not bad, no grass yet, he did not build 9 Birch Street. He built 7 and 11.

Bob Parsons said slope is directly to home. He will review plan and give comments by tomorrow night. Swale originally intended. Confusion of swale versus wall.

Scott Green is working for 9 Birch Street though he did not build it.

Conservation noticed slope is directly to 9 Birch Street.

This plan supersedes 3rd bullet in letter per Charles Houghton.

Grading is taking it to street. Lower in back, moving with gravity. Condition in perpetuity to 11 Birch Street to maintain swale.

Charles Houghton mentions Scott Green can add to deed for 11 Birch Street.

Alex Rozycki thinks building department should be reviewing.

Jurisdictional as buffer zone work per Bob Parsons.

Charles Houghton ultimately 11 Birch will need a certificate of compliance

Bob Parsons asks about change of plans, certificate of occupancy, certificate of compliance, jurisdictional work, trusts DPW and building process.

Alex Rozycki says letter with changes should be enough.

Charles Houghton agrees to letter on record with new plan set.

Motion from Alex Rozycki that letter be accepted and Bob Parsons seconds with conditions to be added to order once Mr. Parsons review. Roll call yes Alex Rozycki, Bob Parsons, Ellen McBride, Jessica Gerke, Domenick Cimina, and Rob Fotino 6/0

34 Hall Rd

Kenneth Gaffney

Letter regarding tree removal

Motion to approve tree removal by Bob Parsons seconded by Alex Rozycki. Roll call yes Ellen McBride, Bob Parsons, Domenick Cimina, Rob Fotino, Alex Rozycki, and Jessica Gerke yes 6/0

Storm Water Wetlands Restoration Project

Alex Rozycki

DPW Conservation survey

Congratulations Alex Rozycki on Wetlands Restoration award, Dennis Sheehan should put his name on it per Alex Rozycki.

Newcomb Rd

Ellen McBride

Letter to abutters

Ellen McBride asks Maria Sagarino to add letter to billing cycle. Ellen McBride will review letter and if anyone has input please be in touch.

Tree Committee

Update

Reconstitute tree committee, some interested in reupping, some are not. Dennis Sheehan said meeting will be scheduled, appointment letter and swearing in can be coordinated. Ellen McBride said there needs to be 5 residents, 1 Open Space, 1 Conservation Commission member and Tree Warden. Tree Warden in flux but Tom Brady will be able to come. Dennis Sheehan will double check if everyone is on the email. Dennis Sheehan will post agenda and coordinate once they know availability.

Raymie Parker asks who appoints Tree Committee members, answer Dennis Sheehan, select board appoints Tree Warden for 3 years.

Miscellaneous

Conservation agent: *Dennis Sheehan*

Discussions about Conservation agent from Select Board inquiry of what to do. Initiate discussion about what structure, part time with consultant support, shared position or something else. LEC money has been allocated, helping with Veterans Lane. Looking for feedback for job descriptions, funding, asking Commissioners for input.

\$17,000 for agent in budget per Ellen McBride which is not LEC money. Dennis Sheehan said he signed a contract for LEC, Ellen McBride would like to see contract. Tree warden contract clarification would be great.

Ellen McBride stated Conservation needs help, Jim Previte was sent out to check property for wetlands. Site visits, meetings, apply for permits and grants. Ellen McBride happy to start with part time agent. Tom Brady is as needed, need someone we can lean on, a benefitted employee who is committed to Town. MACC website has a lot of listings for agents.

Alex Rozycki thinks we need a Town Engineer, Tree Warden and Conservation Agent. Multiple needs, who is managing grants, site visits is a lot for volunteers, need someone in town to give opinion on a tree or wetlands.

Bob Parsons thinking in terms of Conservation agent only, don't need full time. Share person with another community possibly. Need someone who is active and knows resource delineation, NOI filings. Asks if select board needs input?

Scale and scope of position matters in terms of budget per Dennis Sheehan. Operating budget if in between person, grow in house potential.

Wetland Scientist is specialized, different than an arborist per Alex Rozycki.

Ellen McBride thinks assistant Shannon should call surrounding towns and ask for job descriptions with salary. Wakefield, Melrose, Winchester, Lexington sister towns noted.

Alex Rozycki would like tree planted on his street, well thought out conversation about dividend for Town and biggest need for Town. LEC can be a wetland scientist as needed.

Higher percentage of wetlands than any other surrounding Town. Bob Parsons continues to see value in someone reviewing NOIs, networking with DEP, pursuing grant opportunities, advocates for Town, knows our neighborhoods.

Consultant does learn Town over time per Dennis Sheehan. Alex Rozycki trusts Jack Sullivan, ok to lean on experts. Town engineer need is great.

Dennis Sheehan operation engineer at DPW removed during covid, environmental scientist may be reworked. Survey could be done, worried about context.

Raymie Parker asks if Conservation agent and DPW job could be combined. Important for Conservation Commission to have someone to lean on. Maybe there is a joint position that fulfills full time needs. GIS mapping, operations engineer, conservation agent combination. Maybe DCR has someone looking for part time work. Remote work ok, consultants' costs need to be considered (LEC/Rich Kirby, Tom Brady).

Jen DeCourcy comments it would be nice to ask less from a volunteer commission, and not call Brett Gonsalves for wetlands determinations. Jen DeCourcy is happy to work remotely. Ellen McBride suggests Jen DeCourcy get a pay raise.

Bob Parsons population and resource agent in neighboring towns likely have Conservation agent. Bill rate sheet from LEC depends on who goes out and level of expertise. Part time wetland scientist could work with planning department on grant opportunities, inventory Stoneham wetlands.

Alex Rozycki solicited by Mystic River watershed, who in Stoneham can handle those requests? Bob Parsons states we struggle to get things done, this is a systemic issue. Bob Parsons does not want us to miss opportunities.

Dennis Sheehan summarizes as a menu of options that we can determine how to pursue.

Executive session for Weiss Farm Wednesday 9/7/22 5pm

Ellen McBride will contact Jon Witten, George Seibold and Bob Galvin ccing Dennis Sheehan.

Summit 9/13/22 6:30pm at Middle School with other boards; Ellen McBride, Bob Parsons, Rob Fotino, Domenick Cimina, Jessica Gerke

Approve Meeting Minutes August 8, 2022

Motion made by Bob Parsons seconded by Domenick Cimina Roll Call Ellen McBride, Bob Parsons, Rob Fotino and Domenick Cimina yes 4/0

Next Meeting September 19, 2022

Motion to adjourn by Alex Rozycki, seconded by Bob Parsons Roll Call Ellen McBride, Bob Parsons, Rob Fotino, Domenick Cimina, Jessica Gerke, and Alex Rozycki yes 6/0