

MINUTES of meeting, November 14, 2014

Board Room, Department of Public Works (DPW), 20 Municipal Way

Present: Diane Campbell, chair; David Wright, vice chair; members Paul Criswell and Kurt Somerville; project manager Peter Jackson; Town staff Janet Bowser, Dave Hickey, Meghan Jop, Mike Pakstis and Brandon Schmitt; town residents John and Toby Sullivan (at 8:15).

Diane Campbell called the meeting to order at 8:02 a.m.

Minutes: Draft minutes of the meeting of October 3, 2014 had been distributed previously. MOVED Kurt, SECONDED Paul to approve the minutes as submitted. PASSED unanimously.

Construction report: Peter Jackson said the work schedule had not changed from the large-format matrix distributed at a previous meeting, but he was preparing a simplified version that would fit on a standard sheet of paper for easier reference. Most tasks are on schedule, but it took longer than expected to assemble the various materials for the bioretention basins, and these won't be fully landscaped by the end of the planting season; 61 native shrubs were planted, and then native rye grass was seeded to hold the bank until work can be resumed.

The helical piles have been installed for the raised walkway, and as-built drawings are being made. Boardwalk construction can continue even in inclement weather.

Plans for dredging State Street Pond include managing access to the site and to the staging area (a section of the lacrosse field) and removal of dredged material (after a rest-and-test period). After the consultant (Beta) signs off on the plan, work is expected to begin in or about February 2015.

Dave Hickey added that three crews will be working at once in the segment between Seaver and Abbott Streets, on the walkway, the path, and the stream, respectively. Janet asked if the path by the Phillips Park playground could be replaced at the same time; Peter said probably so, and noted that the plan calls for narrowing the pavement at that location.

In further discussion of dredging, Peter said that, since lacrosse is a spring sport, the field would have to be restored immediately after completion of work; Diane urged him to keep the athletic department informed about when they can use the field again. Janet noted that the access road has porous pavement, and asked that dirt and mud on it be controlled.

Stream restoration and tree removal: Peter said he walked the Caroline Street area with the consultant and identified 20 more trees to remove. Most were four to six inches in diameter, and located near a stream bend that would be hard-reinforced. Brandon said the effect on the canopy would not be great, and existing shrubbery would mask the change at ground level. Answering a question from Janet, Meghan said authorization for the work by the Wetlands Protection Committee and the Natural Resources Commission might take the form of setting limits for tree diameter, etc., after which the decisions on removal could be made administratively.

Peter showed on a map an access route from the south at Seaver Street that would reduce the number of trees removed. He said he would go back to the site to update conditions before beginning work. He plans to plant native species adaptable to conditions at that site.

Citizen Speak on a non-agenda topic: John and Toby Sullivan, abutters on Dexter Road, asked whether moving the path 30 feet closer to their property would really gain enough elevation to prevent the chronic inundation that now occurs. Peter responded that the combined effect of the path relocation and the short raised walkway to let water through should keep the path drier. The Sullivans accepted his offer to meet with them at their home and bring a plan. He also assured Mrs. Sullivan that the knotweed behind their property would be removed.

319 grant: Dave said he has been notified of the intention of the federal EPA to award a grant to Wellesley of approximately \$331,000 for construction to improve water quality, and a contract is being prepared that identifies which parts of the Fuller Brook Park project are eligible to receive these funds. He said the application process had been cumbersome, and of the seven awardees across the state, Wellesley was the only one that had applied with its project already approved.

Public outreach: Diane praised the new website's construction updates and reports to residents. Peter described the process by which his project log becomes a weekly construction bulletin and then a one-paragraph summary which the DPW office posts to the website and sends to subscribers. Dave noted that committee members' names are listed on the site, and there is a one-click way to subscribe to updates, which are expected to go out every Monday. Diane will write a letter to The Swellesley Report telling how to subscribe.

Peter noted that the 319 grant requires permanent signage explaining the project, not just temporary construction signs; he showed examples from other projects, and indicated that Horsley Witten can produce a similar sign for about \$2,600. Meghan noted that the Town requires an approval process for all new signs.

Benches: Peter noted that 14 benches will be affected by work on the project. The plan calls for benches to be returned to their original location as much as possible. However, Mike noted that some benches are in poor condition and might not survive removal and resetting. He said the project might present an opportunity to replace all benches and "reset the clock." Janet said that the benches are expected to last 20 years, and that the Town has borne the expense of repairing or replacing them. Presently the donation to place a bench in a town park is \$1,500; raising that to, say, \$2,000 could fund an endowment for maintenance. Mike said the project budget has funding for removing and resetting, but not for repair and replacement. Various options were discussed for contact with bench donors, and approval and funding of new benches.

Raised walkway construction issues: Dave said that specifications for the helical piles couldn't be met in some places because of deep soil conditions indicated by less drilling resistance than expected. Spans were shortened, and framing was changed, with more bracing and crossbeams extending beyond the edge of the walkway. Questionable piles were driven only to shallower, more resistant levels, and will be trimmed to the correct height. All these modifications will be reflected in the as-built drawings.

Committee address: Dave noted that some permitting authorities were unaware that a successor committee for the project had been established, and some communications were still being addressed to the chairwoman of the former "coordinating committee." He said he would notify those agencies and list himself as the new contact.

Next meeting: The next meeting of FBPC was scheduled for Friday, December 19, 2014, at 8:00 a.m. in the DPW Board Room.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:42 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
David Wright, Vice Chair