

MINUTES of meeting, May 20, 2015

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

Present: Diane Campbell, chair; David Wright, vice chair; members Paul Criswell (until 8:55 a.m.), Heidi Kost-Gross and Kurt Somerville; project manager Peter Jackson; Town staff Dave Hickey and Mike Pakstis.

The chair called the meeting to order at 8:06 a.m.

Minutes: Draft minutes of the meeting of April 15, 2015 had been distributed previously. **MOVED** Kurt, **SECONDED** Heidi to approve the minutes as submitted. **PASSED** unanimously.

Security on walkways: Dave Hickey said he met with Kendra Chencus, an abutter on Forest St., who observed high school students gathering at a wide place in the raised walkway during their break periods, with a potential for problems of noise, litter, and obstruction of traffic. Dave and Peter Jackson met at the site with Deputy Chief of Police Joe Pilecki, who said that police bicycle patrols could be scheduled for times of day when problems are reported. Peter also met with High School Principal Jamie Chisum, who agreed to address any issues that might arise with student activity in that area. There was discussion of signage to encourage appropriate behavior toward the environment and other people.

Trails Committee proposal for athletic fields area: Diane and Dave reported that the proposed new route for the Brook Path past the baseball field and across School Committee land to Paine St., which was approved by FBPC on April 15, has been approved by the School Committee. Trails Committee plans to coordinate with Schools, DPW, and the park restoration project as it marks and clears the new trail.

Construction report: Peter Jackson said that approximately 2,000 plants, consisting of perennials, grasses and sedges, have been placed and mulched around the bioretention areas in Construction Section 1. The streambank between Caroline and Forest Streets has been stabilized with coir mats, plants, and live stakes. An asbestos pipe was removed from under Seaward Rd.

A previous report that spawning fish had reached State Street Pond (Skating Pond) having proved incorrect, preparations have begun to dredge the pond. Sheet-metal piles and plastic sheeting are re-directing the stream around the pond. A gravel access path was laid along the south side of the adjoining lacrosse field, leaving much of that field available for athletic use while work proceeds, probably starting in early June.

Peter expressed his opinion that, even though the stream and path in the athletic-fields area are not in the project as approved by Town Meeting, attention should be paid to invasive plants there such as bittersweet and Japanese knotweed, since these may spread into the project area near Paine St. Besides concerns for the project itself, there is a "good neighbor" reason to cooperate with abutters who are trying to control these plants on their property. Peter believes that, with economies in the work and Section 319 funds becoming available, this additional work may be affordable within the project's appropriation. He will prepare a segment-by-segment cost estimate and present it at a later meeting of FBPC.

Tall stumps and a smothering honeysuckle vine near Caroline St. have been approved for removal, and Peter will ask the contractor to do this work. He received an inquiry whether recycling containers would be placed in the park; he replied that the project design did not include them, and that the decision to recommend them was a matter for the Natural Resources Commission (NRC) and the DPW. He said that the project website will map all uses of herbicides in the park, with information about each product being used and about NRC's waivers allowing their use. Informational signs and/or small flags will mark the locations in the field.

Section 319 grant: Dave Hickey reported that the first invoice under this grant, for \$80,000, is ready to submit as soon as the payment process is established. Mike Pakstis will consult the Town's Finance Director about which Town account—DPW, Community Preservation Committee, the project itself, or some other—should receive payments from the grant.

Board of Selectmen invitation: Diane said the Board of Selectmen has invited FBPC to give a progress report at an upcoming Selectmen's meeting. She will email members about possible dates.

Next meeting: Wednesday, June 10, 2015, at 8:00 a.m. in the DPW Board Room.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:39 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
David Wright, Vice Chair