

**MINUTES** of meeting, September 16, 2015

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

Present: Diane Campbell, chair; David Wright, vice chair; members Heidi Gross and Paul Criswell (8:30); Peter Jackson, project manager; Town staff Dave Hickey, Meghan Jop, Mike Pakstis and Brandon Schmitt; visitor Patti Quigley.

The chair called the meeting to order at 8:09 a.m.

**Minutes:** Draft minutes of the meeting of August 19, 2015 had been distributed previously. The draft was amended to reflect approval of the previous meeting's minutes. MOVED Diane, SECONDED Heidi to approve the minutes for August 19 as amended. PASSED unanimously.

**Report from Track and Field Committee:** Ms. Patti Quigley reported on plans to enlarge the football field so that it will be usable for other field sports, and also to reconfigure the track around it. She said her committee was working closely with the School Committee, Natural Resources Commission, Engineering Department and other Town bodies on the project. It is expected that funding will come equally from public donations, Community Preservation Act grants, and Town funds.

**Construction report:** Project manager Peter Jackson said that work in construction section 1 was nearly complete. Invasive species management on Caroline Brook between Paine Street and the high school will require a long-term application of black plastic sheeting.

The recently-completed dredging of State Street/Skating Pond removed 4,000 tons of material. This was a higher amount than expected, but after de-watering (mostly by evaporation) the material proved to be unusually light given its volume, resulting in lower carting costs than expected. At 4 to 6 feet deep, the pond is expected to provide habitat for amphibians, eels, and snapping turtles. The overflow swale alongside the pond, which was used to divert the stream during dredging, has been returned to its original grade and seeded. Committee members praised the contractor for devising a successful method to dredge the pond with minimal disruption to nearby athletic fields. The turf and fence in the staging/drainage area will be restored.

An innovative design for street drains at Abbott Street will divert storm runoff to nearby bioretention areas. Drainage work at Forest Street had to contend with sewage and gas lines at the site; a single 24-inch pipe was replaced with two 16-inch ones.

Peter expressed concern at the time it is taking the contractor to vacate and restore the staging area at Forest Street, which has contained materials and equipment for at least 6 months. Dave Hickey said one reason for the delay might be a shortage of open areas downstream for staging.

Work in the Wellesley Avenue area included transplanting a tall hornbeam to a site near Brook Street and masonry repairs to bridges and a culvert by a subcontractor. In the "tight spot" between stream and private property east of Wellesley Avenue, a new revetment wall is supporting a wider path than previously existed there. The boardwalk near the new wet meadow was re-routed to avoid a large sewer line and to find more solid ground support for the piles, and one more pile was added to the design.

**Project schedule:** Peter said that completion of the pond dredging and the boardwalks marked a milestone in the project and an opportunity to take the long view. Noting that work on the project didn't begin until almost six months after the contract was awarded, he has requested a realistic revised schedule from the contractor to determine if work can be completed by the original target date of November 2016, or if it is anticipated to go into the spring of 2017. Some tasks have been more complicated and taken longer than expected, and the actual volume of concrete liners to be removed from the stream isn't yet known.

**Section 319 grant:** Peter said he is preparing an invoice, the third so far under this grant, which will bring charges to about 90 percent of the full grant amount of \$337,000. Additional work that may be charged to the grant may include informational signage at the bioretention areas and further removal of invasive species.

**Public tour of Section 1:** This event, open to the public but particularly for the benefit of Town Meeting members and abutters, was tentatively scheduled for November 7, 2015 at 1:00 p.m., unless it conflicts with a football game.

**Maintenance Plan review:** Peter said the draft maintenance plan submitted to 2014 Annual Town Meeting along with the project funding request is now being evaluated to see if the suggested new staffing and equipment still seem appropriate. It is expected that a full-time skilled employee of the Park and Tree Department will be needed for post-construction maintenance.

**Next meeting:** The next meeting of the FBPC was set for Wednesday, October 14, 2015 at 8:00 a.m., in the DPW Board Room.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:25 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
David Wright, Vice Chair