

Fuller Brook Park Committee (FBPC)
Massachusetts

Town of Wellesley,

MINUTES of meeting, April 6, 2016

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

Present: Diane Campbell, chair; David Wright, vice chair; members Paul Criswell and Raina McManus; Peter Jackson, project manager; Town staff Dave Hickey and Brandon Schmitt.

The chair called the meeting to order at 8:05 a.m.

Minutes: Draft minutes of the meeting of March 2, 2016 had been distributed previously. MOVED Paul, SECONDED Diane to approve the minutes as submitted. PASSED unanimously.

Construction report: Peter Jackson showed pictures of recent activity on the site, beginning with video of fish (white suckers) swimming upstream on their annual spawning run, taken just a few days before. He said work was complete in construction section 1 except for street paving. A map indicated seven locations in sections 3 and 4 where drainage work is planned. Other slides showed the revetment wall at Vane Street, made of large stones salvaged from a seawall in Essex, Mass.; stream banks cleared of invasive species near Dover Road; and areas of bank covered with black plastic sheeting to suppress knotweed, between Cottage Street and Dover Road.

Responding to a question, Peter said that water backup in a drain basin near Morton Street was caused by temporary fabric ground covering to prevent erosion, and he expected drainage to improve as the fabric degraded away. A problem for snowplows and pedestrians finding the path under snow will be addressed next winter with more stakes to mark the route.

Peter said the Project Management Team had considered a process of approving the work section by section, but continuing issues around grass mowing in section 1 prevented that.

Pedestrian bridges: The condition of the stream-crossing foot bridges in the Park has been assessed. The bridge at Morton Street, with its recently-replaced railing and concrete deck, appears to be in good condition. The other four pedestrian bridges in the Park—located at Leighton and Benton Streets, Appleby Street, Cold Spring Brook, and Hunnewell School and Simons Park—have deteriorated foundations, rusted bearings, and/or warped wood decks. Peter proposed restoring all or some of these bridges, replacing deteriorated parts and supporting bridge decks with steel crossbeams.

The project's general contractor estimated the cost per bridge at \$209,000 for recycled plastic decking and \$170,000 for pressure-treated wood. The Town has \$139,722 available for the project from other sources. This leaves a shortfall of \$69,443 for recycled plastic or \$36,443 for pressure treated lumber. The questions before the Committee are whether to use project funds to fill in the shortfall and whether recycled plastic or pressure treated wood should be

used for the decking and railings. Peter estimated available funds at \$164,000 from cost underruns in the project so far, \$337,000 in funds offset by the Section 319 water-quality grant, and \$200,000 from the project's still-untapped contingency fund, for a total of \$701,000 in funds potentially available.

The chair summarized two questions for consideration at a future meeting: whether to choose three of the four bridges and restore them with the plastic material using project funds, and to determine whether this new activity required revising the project's Scope of Work.

Peter also noted that winter ice lasts longer on the foot bridges than on the paths, and maintenance staff will be alerted to deal with that.

Interpretive signs: Peter presented hard-copy proofs and possible edits for a sign mandated by the Section 319 grant. He proposed that the title "Stream Restoration" be replaced by "Stream Relocation," arguing that, while restoration was taking place throughout the project, the work at this site near Forest Street was mainly about relocating the stream to avoid a sewer line. He showed the sign in two sizes, 24 by 36 inches and 20 by 30 inches, and said he thought the smaller size would be more suitable to the site. He proposed removing graphic overlays that made the image harder to see, but thought the reverse type (white letters on a colored background) would be legible if the background were dark enough. He suggested adding QR codes to link smartphone users to the project's website and to a Rain Garden Pocket Guide. Members expressed general approval of these changes, pending submission of revised proofs.

Next meeting: The next meeting of FBPC will take place at 8:00 a.m. on Wednesday, May 11, 2016 in the Board Room of the Department of Public Works, 20 Municipal Way.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:06 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
David Wright, Vice Chair