

**MINUTES** of meeting, January 14, 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, Mike Pakstis and Brandon Schmitt.

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

**New Committee member:** The chair welcomed Raina McManus to FBPC as the representative of the Natural Resources Commission (NRC), succeeding Heidi Kost-Gross.

**Minutes:** Draft minutes of the meeting of November 19, 2015 had been distributed previously. Corrections were discussed. In the absence of a quorum of members who had been present at the November 19 meeting, approval of the minutes was postponed to a later meeting.

**Construction report:** Peter Jackson said that staging for construction is now concentrated on a site just downstream from Grove Street, where it is expected to remain for a year or so, until the completion of construction. New construction now in place includes: granite steps at the confluence with Cold Spring Brook to provide stream access for schoolchildren; granite revetment walls to extend the Grove Street flume and control bank erosion, with plantings of red-twig dogwood and willow to screen and stabilize the site; and at Cameron Street, use of many techniques in a single location, including granite toe stones, logs and terraced earth with fabric to protect the bank on the sharp curve, boulders to moderate stream flow and provide habitat, and temporary plastic sheeting to control knotweed.

Removal of concrete liners from the stream has begun. The approximately 1,700 segments are larger than previously estimated, each measuring 6-12" in width by 30" in height in cross-section, and 3 feet long, or 6.375 cubic feet in volume. However, if they do not contain rebar they can be crushed and reused. As of this date, about 25% of the segments have been removed.

Peter showed photographs of other new construction: toe stones in the stream bank, the head wall of a drain, and a decorative rail fence at the Grove Street staging area. He said the former staging area at Wilson Street has been graded and will be replanted.

The Section 319 grant requires placing of two informational signs, now being drawn up by the project's design consultant. One, near Abbott Road, will explain the bioretention basins, and the other, near Forest Street, will describe the stream relocation and new plantings at that site.

An unavoidably "tight spot" in the path occurs where it passes between a steep, tree-lined stream bank and the State Street parking lot. There was concern that car bumpers hanging over the curb of the parking lot may constrict the path even more. Peter proposed installing a path segment that is as wide as possible for the site, about 4 feet, and seeing how it works. MOVED Paul, SECONDED David to proceed with Peter's plan as presented. PASSED unanimously.

**Progress of project:** Peter said work will continue at least until spring 2017. He is in discussion with the WPC about a shorter restriction on stream work to protect spawning fish, since evidence indicates that the fish run ends well before the restriction's lifting date, June 15.

Work on Project Section 1 is mostly complete, pending additional application of grass seed. In Section 2, additional knotweed control with plastic sheeting near Paine Street was done last week; between Paine and the athletic fields, invasives have been removed and lawn restoration will be done soon. In Section 3, work on the lawn, stream, and path is complete near Wellesley Avenue.

**Section 319 grant:** Dave Hickey said a third invoice was submitted, and payment may already have been received. The Town has billed about 94% of the full grant amount so far. Work must be completed by June 2016 to qualify; the mandated signs (see above) may use up the balance of the grant.

**Donated benches:** Peter reported that two new benches had been installed and two more were on the way. The NRC has approved a plan with six new locations. Donors wishing to site a bench in a specific place may propose the location to NRC.

**Next meeting:** The next meeting of the FBPC was set for Wednesday, March 2, 2016 at 8:00 a.m., in the DPW Board Room.

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

Respectfully submitted,  
David Wright, Vice Chair