

DRAFT 2 of MINUTES of meeting, November 19, 2015

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

Present: Diane Campbell, chair; David Wright, vice chair; member Kurt Somerville; Peter Jackson, project manager; Town staff Dave Hickey, Mike Pakstis and Brandon Schmitt.

The chair called the meeting to order at 8:08 a.m.

Minutes: Draft minutes of the meeting of October 14, 2015 had been distributed previously. Revisions were discussed on the subject of communications with abutters. MOVED Diane, SECONDED Kurt to approve the minutes for October 14 as amended. PASSED unanimously.

Construction report: Peter Jackson said that staging for construction has moved steadily to the west, with the Forest Street area now closed and re-landscaped, Wilson Street beginning to pack up and leave, and Grove Street setting up. Because there are no suitable open areas west of Grove Street, that staging area will probably be active for a year or more. Roadside guard rails have been removed for easier access. Fabric-covered fencing around the area will lessen its visual impact.

During the five weeks since the previous FBPC meeting, crews have seeded two acres of lawn, installed a path segment near the football field, and planted shrubs in various places including the field and near Wellesley Avenue. With dredging complete at the State Street Pond (Skating Pond), plantings and coir fabric are now stabilizing the slope; the swale on the pond's south side, a wetland constructed to mitigate the nearby parking lot, will be re-graded by the contractor so that open water does not collect there.

Black plastic sheeting has been laid down near Rice Street to control knotweed, and will probably remain for two to three years. The staging area near the football field will be cleared out by Thanksgiving; eight additional upright juniper trees will be planted there in the spring.

Peter said he responded to a phone inquiry from a resident, informing the caller that the 7 a.m. start time for work was specified in the contract and in compliance with Town by-laws. Another resident on Marvin Street believes vibrations from construction work may have caused damage to an interior wall of his house and the floor of his garage; Peter looked at photos and saw what he thought was poor-quality construction; he has referred the matter to the contractor and the contractor's insurer.

Peter said stream work will continue as long as weather allows. Work on the big curve at Cameron Street is already done, and the stream near Grove Street will be dewatered for removal of concrete liners.

Section 319 grant: Dave Hickey said he is in touch with the grant administrator, discussing a few items of work that may be included in the grant before it is finalized, such as the drainage at Forest Street.

Public tour of Section 1: The group of approximately 25 people who walked Section 2 of the project with FBPC members on November 7 included Selectmen and members of other boards and Town Meeting, as well as other residents. Diane said she was asked to identify some trees and shrubs, and suggested that the Committee might consider plant labels or a horticultural map to inform the public.

Memorials in the park: Kurt and Diane said they had received inquiries from residents about donating a trees with a marker to honor an individual. Brandon said the Natural Resources Commission was wary of additions that gave parks the appearance of cemeteries, and asked that potential tree donors seek NRC approval first. David Wright agreed that too many memorial markers would be at odds with the Olmsted idea of a naturalistic space in the city.

Peter said that two additional memorial benches have been donated since the project began. Cricket Vlass, the Town horticulturist, is managing the memorial benches, mapping their locations and

informing donors that the wood benches typically last 15 to 20 years and are not replaced by the Town when they wear out.

Trash receptacles: Diane has received suggestions that more receptacles be provided in the park. There was concern among members that more trash cans meant more trash in the park, some of it not in the cans. The present number of receptacles was judged to be about right for real disposal needs, while encouraging residents to “pack it in, pack it out.”

Interpretive signs: Peter said that Beta, the project’s Phase 3 design firm, had done some design work on signs describing the history, natural resources, and stormwater infrastructure, to be placed together near State Street, but these had been taken out of the plans at some point. He said the 319 grant specified at least two signs describing the water-quality work funded by the grant. He suggested placing one such sign near the bioretention basin at Caroline Street, and the other perhaps as part of a State Street sign cluster as originally proposed.

Trails Committee path segment: Mike Pakstis said the Trails Committee proposed to move the baseball field’s fence on the first-base side northward 10 feet to make room for the new route of the Brook Path. Since the park project is now doing only follow-up landscaping in the area, the way is clear for Trails to begin this work whenever it wants.

Next meeting: The next meeting of the FBPC was set for Thursday, January 14 at 8:00 a.m., in the DPW Board Room.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:13 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
David Wright, Vice Chair

[NOTE: This amended draft incorporates two corrections made by PJ in the Jan. 14 meeting. No vote on these minutes at that meeting, for lack of a quorum of members who had been present on Nov. 19.]