

MINUTES of meeting, March 2, 2016

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

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

The chair called the meeting to order at 8:07 a.m.

Minutes: Draft minutes of the meetings of November 19, 2015 (amended) and January 14, 2016 had been distributed previously. MOVED Diane, SECONDED Kurt to approve the minutes of November 19 as amended. PASSED unanimously. MOVED Paul, SECONDED Diane to approve the minutes of January 14 as submitted. PASSED unanimously.

Construction report: Peter Jackson said that construction during the last two months has been concentrated between Grove and Cottage Streets, the area requiring the most intensive work in the project. Before removing the old concrete stream liners, crews have found a new use for them, as coffer dams to shield other work on the stream. The stream bank is being built up with reinforcing logs, anti-erosion fabric, and ballast logs whose root balls project into the stream, forming deeps and shallows and providing shelter for birds. Stonework includes riprap around headwalls, loose stone around drain pipe ends to slow water velocity and catch sediments, and a revetment wall under construction at Vane Street. These features look bright and raw now, but will darken and soften in appearance with time.

Additional expenses: Removal of liners in the Grove-Cottage area is leaving a high, vertical stream bank, and restoring the bank's slope has required an additional coir log in many locations, at a cost of about \$11,000. A floating silt fence to catch disturbed sediments proved ineffective in the shallow stream, so an anchored sedimentation fence was used instead, at a negotiated cost of \$12.50 per linear foot. Over 5,000 feet of fence was needed, far more than the original estimate. However, Peter believes that previous savings on dredging and funds from the Section 319 grant will cover this added cost. Because of the coarse, gravelly texture of the soil in this area, sediments settle quickly, allowing the work to proceed immediately to the next site.

Section 319 signage: Peter showed drafts of the two informational signs mandated by the federal grant and designed by project consultants Beta and Horsley Witten. There was discussion of which entities' logos should appear on the signs, and which should sign off on the design and text. Peter will distribute copies of the signs to members of FBPC and the Natural Resources Commission (NRC) for review and comment, with a goal of approval at FBPC's April meeting.

Winter damage: Peter said that in the spring he and DPW will review damage to the path and lawn by Town snowplows, and the Town will do restoration at its expense. As many as six large trees fell during the recent wind storm; the Town, not the project's contractor, will remove them.

Schedule: Peter said he went to the Wetlands Protection Committee and obtained relief on stream work restrictions, so that crews will not be required to stay out of the stream for the entire period from March through June, and spawning fish will still be protected. Work on the stream is expected to be done by this spring, and attention will then turn to drainage and paving.

Section 319 grant: Peter estimated that 95 percent of the grant amount has been billed, and that expenses for the two signs and an updated maintenance plan may use up the rest.

Report to Annual Town Meeting: Peter's draft of a report from FBPC, previously circulated to members, was revised only with a punctuation mark here and there. MOVED David, SECONDED Paul to submit the report to Annual Town Meeting as amended. PASSED unanimously. All members signed the document.

Donated benches: Peter reported that six new prospective donors of benches have come forward. He showed aerial views of construction sections 3 and 2, indicating the locations of existing, NRC-approved, and newly-proposed bench sites. There was consensus among members that the number and locations of existing and proposed benches was appropriate. Another bench "donation" may come from the project itself: leftover granite steps from a stream-access stairway, fashioned into a stone bench at a vista point on Skating Pond.

Plastic bag ban: Raina requested that FBPC endorse NRC's motion at Annual Town Meeting to ban the distribution of plastic-film shopping bags by retailers in Wellesley. After discussion, MOVED Paul, SECONDED David to support the motion. PASSED unanimously.

Next meeting: The next meeting of the FBPC was set for Wednesday, April 6, 2016 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