

Department of Planning and Community Development

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Mayor Joseph C. Sullivan

Braintree Conservation Commission
Patrick Flynn, Chair
Donald Murphy, Vice-Chair
Diane Francis
Gail Poliner-Feldman
Alan Weinberg

Staff Kelly Phelan

**CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
THURSDAY, MARCH 5, 2015**

APPROVED

Present: Patrick Flynn, Chair*(*arrived at point noted*); Kevin Bears, Heather Charles Lis, Diane Francis, Gail Feldman & Kelly Phelan, Staff

Absent: Gus Murphy, Vice Chair; Alan Weinberg

Public Hearings

None

Other Business

Authorization of Emergency Certification – Grove St.

Staff issued an Emergency Certification for clean-up related to the February 4th collision between the commuter rail and a truck on the railroad tracks on Grove St. near Commerce Park Drive. There was a release of diesel fuel. Approximately 10 cubic yards of soil will be excavated and removed from the site. The excavation area is within the buffer zone to a wetland.

Ms. Charles Lis asked about stabilizing the site after the excavation is done. Staff included a condition that she be contacted to meet with the contractor on site at the start of the excavation and at its completion.

**Request for Certificate of Compliance
8-627 385 Quincy Ave./CITGO**

Staff noted that this was the dredging project. She reviewed the as-built plans and conditions and recommended the Commission issue the Certificate of Compliance and release the as-built guarantee.

Motion by Ms. Feldman, second by Mr. Bears, to issue the Certificate of Compliance and release the as-built guarantee. Vote: 4-0.

Taber Court Land - Discussion

Staff put this item on the agenda as a follow-up to the discussion held at the last meeting. At that meeting the Commission heard from abutters, John Barrett and Emily Hoard, who would like to see the Town acquire a parcel of land located on Taber Court and the Monatiquot River. The Commission had pursued acquisition of the parcel five years ago and applied for Community Preservation funding but were not successful in obtaining funding. The Commission did not make a decision at the last meeting as to whether to pursue this parcel again.

Ms. Feldman said Mr. Barrett said it is in terrible condition and they should take it to improve the neighborhood and because it is on the Monatiquot River.

* Mr. Flynn arrived.

Ms. Charles Lis said the written comments from Mr. Barrett mentioned dividing the property into thirds with the Town acquiring the third closest to the river. Staff said that was a concept but the details hadn't been worked out. Mr. Barrett wanted to determine overall interest first.

Ms. Charles Lis noted that the parcel is near other open space and even though it is not contiguous could provide habitat value.

Mr. Bears asked about soil testing and access. Staff said that soil testing has not been done and would need to be done. Access is from Taber Court.

Mr. Flynn suggested the Commission do a site visit to the property in the spring once the snow has melted. Staff will schedule a site visit for the month of May. Ms. Feldman suggested inviting members of the Community Preservation Committee.

White's Hill Land Donation – Discussion

Staff noted that the Town recently accepted a donation of five acres associated with the subdivision on White's Hill. The Town Solicitor requested the Commission discuss whether they want the care and custody of the land. If not, it may go to the Water Department or other Town Department. Staff said there is potential for a trail linking Faxon Park to Pond Meadow but it would require neighborhood support and many details to be worked out.

Ms. Feldman said she could see no reason not to accept the land.

Ms. Charles Lis asked about its condition and if it required clean-up. Staff said it was vegetated oak forest and does not require clean-up.

Mr. Flynn suggested that the Commission make a site visit once the snow has thawed. This can be combined with the visit to Taber Court. Staff suggested the District Councilor be invited to join them as he lives in the neighborhood.

Approval of Minutes January 15, 2015

Motion by Ms. Feldman, second by Ms. Francis, to approve the minutes of the January 15th meeting. Vote: 5-0.

Adjourn

Motion by Ms. Feldman, second by Ms. Francis, to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 pm. Vote: 5-0.