

Department of Planning and Community Development

1 JFK Memorial Dr.
Braintree, MA 02184
781 794-8230



Mayor Joseph C. Sullivan

Braintree Conservation Commission

Patrick Flynn, Chair
Donald Murphy, Vice-Chair
Kevin Bears
Heather Charles Lis
Diane Francis
Gail Poliner-Feldman
Alan Weinberg

Staff: Kelly Phelan

CONSERVATION COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES THURSDAY, APRIL 2, 2015

APPROVED

Present: Donald (Gus) Murphy, Vice Chair; Kevin Bears, Heather Charles Lis, Alan Weinberg & Kelly Phelan, Staff

Absent: Patrick Flynn, Chair; Gail Feldman, Diane Francis

Public Hearings

Request for Determination of Applicability 41 Adams St./Braintree Electric Light Department

Sean Murphy from Braintree Electric Light (BELD) was present. Mr. Murphy explained that the project involved adding grounding grid around the Station 10 site at 41 Adams St. There is ground grid within the fenced in area but they are bringing the station up to current engineering standards which call for grounding outside the fence. Mr. Murphy showed a sample of the wire and ground used. The wire is laid in a trench about 18 inches deep and connected to ground rods driven 8 feet deep (when possible).

Mr. (Sean) Murphy requested approval to use a mini-excavator which is about 4 feet wide. He walked the perimeter with staff and there is room.

Mr. Weinberg asked if there is cathodic protection in place. Mr. Murphy said there was and they check it annually.

Ms. Charles Lis asked about the slope of the site and if the trench would be seeded when backfilled. Mr. Murphy said most of the perimeter is flat and it is actually higher closer to the river. He said they planned to let the trenched area naturally revegetate.

Motion by Mr. Weinberg, second by Mr. Bears, to find the project non-significant to the Wetland Protection Act and Braintree Wetland Bylaw and to issue the negative Determination of Applicability with three conditions as drafted. Vote: 4-0.

Motion by Mr. Weinberg, second by Ms. Charles Lis to close the public hearing. Vote: 4-0.

Other Business

Commission Reorganization

Mr. Weinberg spoke about the role of the Chair, Vice-Chair and suggested adding a Clerk. He also said the Commission has had subcommittees in the past and may want to do so again. He suggested tabling the item until all the members are present. Members agreed to hold off on the discussion.

May Meeting Date

The May meeting date will not be changed. The meeting date remains May 7, 2015

Eagle Scout Project Ideas

Mr. Murphy is in contact with Troop 138. They are looking for projects. Staff has two suggestions- a map kiosk at Eaton's Pond area and a fence for the rain garden the environmental club is creating at Braintree High School.

Mr. Weinberg suggested there may be projects for the Town Forest. Ms. Charles Lis suggested a clean-up. The Commission discussed management of the Town Forest land. It is not managed by the Conservation Commission. There used to be a Town Forest Committee but no members have been appointed in several years.

May Site Visits – Saturday, May 16, 2015

Site visits to two locations are schedule for 8 am on Saturday, May 16. The locations are Taber Court and the White's Hill land recently donated to the Town.

Other

Beautification Day/River Clean-up – The annual Beautify Braintree event will be held on May 2, 2015. The Monatiquot River will be one of the sites included in the day.

Eaton's Trail Walk - Staff suggested holding another trail walk at Eaton's Pond Area this spring to build on the success of the autumn clean-up and December trail walk. Mr. Bears said he has been out to the area recently and did not see new activity other than deer tracks. The walk will be held at 10 am on Saturday, May 16.

Approval of Minutes March 5, 2015

Motion by Mr. Bears, second by Ms. Charles Lis to approve the minutes of March 5, 2015. Vote: 4-0.

Adjourn

Motion by Mr. Weinberg, second by Mr. Bears, to adjourn the meeting at 7:35 pm. Vote: 4-0.