



53 RIVER STREET MASTER PLAN COMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES

APRIL 5, 2022

7:00 PM

Virtual Meeting

Present: David Martin, Peter Hocknell, Lou York, Bill Klauer, Ilana Liebert, Bill Alesbury, Don Boyle, Stephanie Krantz, Andy Magee (project manager).

Absent: None.

1. Opening

David Martin called the meeting to order at 7:01 PM via a virtual meeting with no committee members in physical attendance and broadcasted via Zoom.us virtual meeting platform.

2. Regular Business

A. A quorum is present.

B. Notes from the chair – none.

C. Resident concerns – none.

D. Park design update:

1) Dam inspection – Quarterly dam inspections are required. These occurred on October 1, 2021 and March 15, 2022. At the March inspection, the following was described: “no significant change in physical condition of the dam, however substantial debris blockage at both low-level outlets have increased dramatically”. It is intended to use a large crane to lift out debris and 3 non-native invasive Norway maples. The crane operators want to wait for the water levels in the millpond area to recede prior to starting this work. The landscape engineer knows someone who has a small backhoe to remove debris; this remains a possibility but there are concerns for safety. The dam safety Emergency Action Plan (EAP) annual review and update is underway. The current plan was sent to both the police and fire departments for comments and recommendation of any needed changes. Lou asked whether the plan will be reviewed by this committee; Andy indicated it is still the same plan. Ilana pointed out that a quarterly inspection cadence should be more like 3 months rather than the 5 months in this instance.



2) A final design plan has been received by Dennis Dale. The parking lot (10 spaces) was moved more to the east. A stormwater retention basin is present now. The outline of previous footprints of mill buildings will be provided using stones. Will have corner edges representing former walls. A bike rack and benches area will be provided. The pathways will be ADA-accessible, with one exception where steps will be present. Viewing platforms will be located at the dam abutment plus one to the east by the parking area. The tailrace path will be slightly depressed and lined with stones. Whether there will be an indent and slope down to the water's edge is still in discussion. The "footprint" of the dam will serve as another access point. The dam removal is synonymous with the stream restoration. As such, the Conservation Commission (CC) and the Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) require naturalization of the waterfront. Dennis Dale contoured the vegetation to address environmental and esthetic concerns (floodplain, etc.). As to the question whether the current trees will remain? The answer is likely no, due to the necessary excavation work. Will examine whether any native trees can be saved. It will take time for new vegetation to grow; space will be very open at first once built. The plan has been submitted to the CC already and will be submitted to ACOE this week. Maintenance of the future park will likely need to follow the "Friends" model (similar to the Arboretum). Andy offers to add to the next meeting agenda discussion to begin defining the role of the committee going forward, perhaps with an eye towards this.

3) Permitting update:

- HDC Demolition Delay (shed and building – issued November 11, 2022)
- HDC Demolition Delay (dam – to be filed (TBF))
- CC WPA Notice of Intent (filed March 25, 2022)
- MEPA Certificate (issued August 7, 2020)
- DCR Dam Safety Permit (issued March 31, 2022)
- DEP Section 401 Water Quality Certificate (TBF)
- DEP Chapter 91 Minor Modification (TBF)
- DEP Chapter 91 Dredging Permit (TBF)
- US ACOE Section 404 Wetlands Protection (TBF)

The 404 only issued after Historic Act Chapter 106; need Memo of Understanding with Acton and Massachusetts Historic Commissions.

4) Grant applications update:

- CPC Application \$182,450 (submitted November 15, 2021)
- EOEA Dam, Levee, and Seawall Repair and Removal \$1M (submitted February 3, 2022)
- EOEA Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Action Grant \$500K-\$700K (due May 4, 2022)



CPA endorsed the CPC application; just need to vote on at Town Meeting. Application of Interest filed for EOEa MVP grant. Downside on both EOEa grants – the agency indicated they prefer permits in hand when you apply. The agency indicated they feel it is a good project, they like the public outreach, it is the type of project they are looking to fund, etc. We do not have to spend the funds this year; can go into 2023. Andy commented that this project is unlikely to go to construction this year, due to the necessary bid process, coordinating contracts, etc.

- E. Approval of the minutes from the 15 FEB 2022 committee meeting: Motion to accept made by Lou York and seconded by Stephanie Krantz. Voting took place via role call:
Peter Hocknell – Aye
David Martin – Aye
Lou York – Aye
Bill Klauer – Aye
Bill Alesbury – Aye
Ilana Liebert – Aye
Stephanie Krantz – Aye
Don Boyle – Abstained
- F. This committee’s next meeting is currently scheduled to take place virtually on 31 MAY 2022.
- G. Motion to adjourn was made at 8:00 by Stephanie Krantz and seconded by Peter Hocknell. Voting took place via role call:
Peter Hocknell – Aye
Lou York – Aye
Bill Klauer – Aye
Bill Alesbury – Aye
David Martin – Aye
Ilana Liebert – Aye
Stephanie Krantz – Aye
Don Boyle – Aye

Documents and Exhibits Used During this Meeting:

- Meeting Agenda for 05 APR 2022
- Draft minutes from the 15 FEB 2022 committee meeting
- Andy Magee slide presentation