



53 RIVER STREET MASTER PLAN COMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES NOVEMBER 30, 2023 7:00 PM Virtual Meeting

Present: David Martin, Peter Hocknell, Ilana Liebert, Bill Klauer, Bill Alesbury, Stephanie Krantz, Lou York, Andy Magee (Former Project Consultant).

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: with regards to the Select Board voting on the committee's recommendation for the park name; the past 2 Select Board meetings both ran very late, and a vote was postponed to a future meeting. David indicated he is hoping to possibly vote on the name recommendation this coming Monday.

C. Resident concerns – none.

D. Status of project from David Martin:

- Onsite meeting took place this past Tuesday and Andy Magee was present too. Most of the grading work is either complete or close to completion. The only part behind schedule is the area where asbestos was found. Here, several feet of soil is to be removed and processed. The licensed site professional (LSP) made their recommendation to the state's Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) but they have yet to respond (are allowed 90 days).
- After additional testing it was determined that the levels of both lead and arsenic are not at a level requiring further remediation.
- Topsoil is to be brought into the site and will eventually raise the overall grade. No loam will be added at this time due to the end of the growing season and the potential for winter erosion.



- The wet area upstream from the original dam site will be allowed to grow back naturally. Willows and/or dwarf dogwoods will be planted in the land adjacent to the channel upstream from the dam site.
- Workers noted catfish and eel in Fort Pond Brook. Trout are also stocked periodically by the State.
- Stones are now in place marking the former tail race. The lookout area is complete except for the rail; expecting rail materials delivered on Dec 6.
- The team was able to rebuild / restore the brick at the wheelhouse.
- Surface level stones have been placed to indicate where the former dam was located.
- As mentioned, no additional plantings are slated for this year, given it is almost winter. The contractors will return in May to add loam and perform planting. Also outstanding – scour protection at the upstream MBTA bridge buttresses.
- Ilana asked about exposed soil and possible erosion. The contractors will coat it to reduce erosion potential. It was noted that the soil is quite packed already. Erosion controls will remain in place until the project has been completed.
- In terms of any findings of archeological significance, it was reported that a few metal gears were found but were fairly rusty. Lots of buttons can also be found, given the nature of the mill workings.
- David stated that he applied to the CPC for a grant to fund completion of the park in the amount of \$400K. This includes all the detailed landscaping, walkways, outlining historic features, parking lot, stormwater features, etc.

E. Approval of the minutes from the 17 OCTOBER 2023 committee meeting: Motion to accept made by Bill Alesbury and seconded by Stephanie Krantz. Voting took place via role call:

Peter Hocknell – Aye

David Martin – Aye

Bill Klauer – Aye

Bill Alesbury – Aye

Stephanie Krantz – Aye

Lou York – Aye

Ilana Liebert – Aye

F. This committee's next meeting is tentatively scheduled to take place at some point after the CPC vote takes place and before the annual Town Meeting (date TBD).



G. Motion to adjourn was made at 7:37 by Lou York and seconded by Bill Alesbury.

Voting took place via role call:

Peter Hocknell – Aye

Bill Alesbury – Aye

David Martin – Aye

Bill Klauer – Aye

Stephanie Krantz – Aye

Lou York – Aye

Ilana Liebert – Aye

Documents and Exhibits Used During this Meeting:

- Meeting Agenda for 30 NOVEMBER 2023
- Draft minutes from the 17 OCTOBER 2023 committee meeting
- Photos of the site provided by David Martin