



**CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
JOSEPH A. CURTATONE
MAYOR**

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2017

MINUTES

MEETING AT SOMERVILLE CITY HALL
93 HIGHLAND AVENUE
3RD FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM
6:00 PM

Meeting notes prepared by Vanessa Boukili, based on a recording of the meeting

Commission Members in attendance: Rachel Borgatti (Chair), Cristina Kennedy, Aladdine Joroff, Owen Wartella, David Turin

Commission Members absent: Mathias Neuber, Michael Fager

Others in Attendance: Christie Baker (AECOM), Katie Barnicle (AECOM), Zoya Puri (Wynn), Mary White (MWRA)

Staff: Vanessa Boukili (Conservation Agent)

Rachel Borgatti called the meeting to order at 6:03 followed by introductions.

New Business (6:05 pm)

1) Public Hearing: *Notice of Intent* for Exploratory Borings – Proposed Pedestrian Bridge

Applicant: Massachusetts Property, LLC

Property Owner: Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA)

Representative: Kathryn Barnicle (AECOM)

Project Location: Mystic River (Somerville, MA)

DEP file number: 0287-0062

- **Request:** The applicant proposes to perform exploratory geotechnical borings and sediment sampling associated with a pedestrian bridge proposed to be located across the Mystic River between the cities of Somerville and Everett, Massachusetts.
- **Jurisdiction:** Land Subject to Coastal Storm Flowage, Land Subject to Tidal Action, Land Under the Ocean, Coastal Beaches and Tidal Flats, Coastal Bank, Land Containing Shellfish, Anadromous Fish Run, Riverfront Area.



- Documents Presented: (1) Notice of Intent (NOI_somerville_120717 final.pdf; MTBA signature: NOI_MBTA_signature_signoisomerville.pdf; DCR signature: NOI_DCR_120717 final (3).pdf), (2) DMF proof of delivery (DMF proof of delivery_fedex.pdf), (3) Boring plan document with assessor locations (Borings Plan_with Assessor Information.pdf).
- Presentation (Christie Baker, Kathryn Barnicle, Zoya Puri) and Discussion:
 - Exploratory borings to finalize geotechnical borings for bridge.
 - NOI submitted following positive determination on RDA.
 - Wynn has funded study for bridge as part of mitigation package for MEPA.
 - Just about to finalize 25% design for bridge.
 - NOI filing similar to RDA filing, but includes updates.
 - Proposed borings located in three different assessors lots; MBTA is owner of two lots, and DCAMM is owner of one lot. Both MBTA and DCR have signed NOI as property owners. DCR will probably be owner of the bridge, but Wynn is leading this part.
 - Borings proposed in Somerville and Everett in upland and wetland sites. In Somerville, propose 2 in-water borings, 2 upland borings in ConCom jurisdiction, 2 upland borings outside of jurisdiction, and 2 borings where head-house is proposed.
 - Plans include locations of resource areas. Three sources of information conflict about elevations on site, so could not map exact location of Riverfront Area but one or two of the borings are likely in Riverfront Area.
 - Each boring expected to take between 1 and 3 days. Deep borings are likely to take a couple of days of work. Bedrock is shallower in some areas, so those borings would probably take 1 day.
 - Using drive and wash method. 5-inch tube drilled down, all work is done within the tube, so it's protected. Not a sediment producing activity. Any wash water or material that comes up goes into a mud-tub or a tank (similar to a frack tank). All material is put back into the hole. If there is any extra material it is shipped off site. If there is slumping or compaction then sand is placed at the top.
 - Only about 1 square foot of alteration for drilling. Drill rig is truck mounted. Site access through MBTA parcel. Will have to close off end of bike path while drilling a few of the holes. Will have cones and signage. No borings will be on the bike path.
 - Plan to do the work this winter.
 - Commissioner Wartella asked about mitigating disturbance of the lawn area.
 - i. Will restore to pre-existing conditions.
 - Need to do temporary winter restoration, and then complete restoration in Spring.
 - Commissioner Joroff asked about the statement in the NOI about possible future borings. Same type of boring but additional locations?
 - i. If don't get the information needed from these borings, then would discuss with Commission ability to complete borings in specified additional locations. Would go through Commission, but requests that this permit covers these future borings as well.
 - This would need to be discussed with Commission and approval given ad-hoc.
 - Commissioner Kennedy mentioned that DMF letter was not in NOI.
 - i. Proof of filing was emailed to Agent Boukili. Will share with Commission.
 - ii. Have not heard back from DMF, but this is considered non-sediment producing type of boring, and is frequently used to avoid impacts of fish runs.
 - Commissioner Joroff asked where sand placed at top of boring holes (if needed) will come from.
 - i. Drillers would bring sand from off site.
 - Agent Boukili asked if there is any recording information for this property.

- i. Trying to obtain recording information. Location is in the right of way. Hoping to get recording information soon.
- Commissioner Turin asked about size of proposed alterations listed in WPA form 3
 - i. Less than 1 square foot per resource area is the total of all borings (each boring has a diameter of 5 inches).
 - Does not include temporary impacts of barge being anchored and truck mounted drill rig.
- Commissioner Turin asked about project being subject to MassDEP Stormwater Management Standards.
 - i. Nothing found that triggers Stormwater review or exempts project from Stormwater review. No increase in runoff, no impervious surfaces being created. No requirement to mitigate stormwater.
 - Sedimentation and erosion controls should be used. Contractors will have erosion controls available on site, including tarps.
- Limits of work not shown on plans. How to define limits of work?
 - i. Can do individual limits of work around the borings.
 - ii. Use typical work area, such as 10' x 10'.
- Construction of pedestrian bridge is part of mitigation for MEPA. Cost of constructing the bridge is unclear, but these borings will help to determine the cost. Bridge will be 780 feet (abutment to abutment). Will come before Commission to permit bridge construction at a later date.
- Vote: to close the hearing and issue an Order of Conditions with the following special conditions added to the Commissions' standard conditions [motion – Wartella, second – Turin, vote: 5:0:0 @ 6:35 pm]
 - i. The location of any future borings must be approved, in writing, by the Commission or its Agent. This includes any borings that were not explicitly detailed in the Notice of Intent.
 - ii. In the Spring evaluate any areas that were disturbed, including boring locations and access path(s), and restore all areas to original conditions or better.
 - iii. Throughout the special conditions, use the language "work area" instead of "limit of work".

2) MWRA update on Alewife Brook Pump Station Rehabilitation Project and Bypass System [Mary White, 6:38 pm]

- Overview: Alewife Brook Pump Station on Alewife Brook Parkway is being rehabilitated. New pumps inside, PCB remediation (caulk), new roof, new windows. Much of work is inside of building. Chapter 238 of Acts of 2012 exempts work such as this. Is keeping Somerville ConCom up to date with progress.
- Started work in Fall 2017. Bypass system set up, and Barletta (contractor) had to prove that could operate bypass system and not jeopardize pumps or flows in any way, and that could provide adequate backup supply while pumps in station were being dismantled. Test was just passed, and bypass system is now set up. Submitted letter to EPA and DEP (required) and Somerville Conservation Commission summarizing this process.
- Final Submittals from Contractor were approved this afternoon. Going to start bypassing at the end of next week or the following week. Licensed operators there operating the pumps around the clock. Anticipate handling dry weather flow, but does pump wet weather.

- Bypass system is set up primarily in 100-year floodplain resource area only. Temporary impact, and will fully restore site to preconstruction conditions. Work complete on or before November 2018. Restoration through Spring 2019 to ensure fully landscaped. Will make sure there is at least 75% vegetation cover. Outside of 25-ft riverfront area and 100-yr buffer zone. Protections: tree protections (2x4 boards and snow fence around drip line, as much as possible), catch basin inlets (silt sacks), and some catch basins have boards on top, spill kits on site (including oil-absorbing booms), diesel and electric bypass pumps for sewage. Site people are there constantly, including MWRA staff and Stantec (consultant).
 - Are pumps alarmed, connected to SCADA system?
 - Not sure, will report back.
 - SWPPP in place?
 - Consultant prepared SWPPP, but not required to file it.
 - **Action:** *On next site visit check that SWPPP is up to date, make sure that plated catch basins are operating and functional (verify that they are cleaned out).*
- Noise barriers are back up. Asphalt berm in parking lot to keep water from lot running into site.
 - Snow removal plan?
 - Will find out and report back.
 - Snow will not be salted, but stockpile as far away from river as possible.

Updates and Discussion (6:53 pm)

- 1) Ongoing projects: Reviewed ongoing projects spreadsheet
 - Discussed pre-construction site visit for Mystic Dock Removal Project (DEP file #287-0061).
 - Site visit by Agent Boukili and Commissioner Wartella on 12/19/2017.
 - Everything was in order, although pipe could not be removed back to pavement because the DCR permit stated that pipe could only be removed 10 feet back.
 - Showed photos from site visit.

Other Business: (7:04 pm)

- 1) Commissioner Borgatti learned about two new MACC initiative from the new MACC Executive Director, “Dot”:
 - Young professionals group – meetups all over the state. Next meeting in January at Jack’s Abbey.
 - Regional meetups, to be held on a quarterly basis. Next meeting will be about new buffer zone regulations.
 - i. Would be useful to have educational discussions about climate change, water use issues, etc.

Approval of minutes:

- 1) Tabled approval of minutes from November 28, 2017 until next meeting.

Adjourn:

- 1) Motion to adjourn meeting unanimously approved at 7:09 [motion – Kennedy, second – Joroff].

Outstanding Action Items:

October:

- **Action:** Boukili to report City's street sweeping schedule in ASQ.

November:

- **Action:** Everyone to provide comments on Conservation Commission Policies document to Commissioner Joroff by the end of December.
- **Action:** Everyone to review the draft of the public education brochure and provide comments and suggestions by the end of December.
- **Action:** Commissioner Wartella to look for general audience brochure examples and to start working on one for Somerville.
- **Action:** Boukili to ask Gene Crouch to provide spreadsheet with compiled water quality sampling data.
- **Action:** Boukili to draft letter to Winter Hill Yacht Club and send to Commission.
- **Action:** Schedule DCR to come to January meeting for briefing re: Draw 7 Park
- **Action:** Boukili to find out who cleans out Vortech Units at Assembly Square, and how often it is done.
- **Action:** Invite Tara Mitchell and community garden coordinators to come to January or February meeting.
- **Action:** Boukili to notify Commissioners about reappointment to Commission.

December:

- **Action:** Add agenda item Jan meeting to discuss document sharing options (ex. for document editing)
- **Action:** Boukili update Commissioner list on website

List of Meeting Documents (located here: K:\OHCD\Shared\Conservation Commission\Agenda + Minutes + Legal Notices 2017\2017_10_24_Meeting_Documents):

- Agenda
- Ongoing Project Data Spreadsheet
- Exploratory Borings – Proposed Pedestrian Bridge documents (K:\OHCD\Shared\Conservation Commission\Agenda + Minutes + Legal Notices 2017\2017_12_20_Meeting_Documents\2017_9 Exploratory Borings Mystic River_DEP 287-0062)
 - (1) Notice of Intent: NOI_somerville_120717 final.pdf; MTBA signature: NOI_MBTA signature_signoisomerville.pdf; DCR signature: NOI_DCR_120717 final (3).pdf.
 - (2) DMF proof of delivery: DMF proof of delivery_fedex.pdf.
 - (3) Boring plan document with assessor locations: Borings Plan_with Assessor Information.pdf.
- MWRA: Alewife Pump Station bypass pumping system letter 20170812.pdf
- Mystic Dock Removal Project (DEP file number 287-0061) pre-construction site visit photos: K:\OHCD\Shared\Conservation Commission\Agenda + Minutes + Legal Notices 2017\2017_12_20_Meeting_Documents\Mystic River Dock Removal Project\Site visit photos 12-19-17

