

**City of Somerville
Conservation Commission
Meeting Minutes - Final
July 26, 2006**

I. Administrative Matters

Meeting opened at Office of Strategic Planning and Community Development (SPCD) conference room, 3rd floor of City Hall, 93 Highland Avenue, Somerville, at 7:15 pm.

Present were: Conservation Commission (CC) members John Reinhardt, Elizabeth Pyle, Lisa Brukilacchio, Cassandra Koutalidis and Delia Kaye. Not Present: Chair Ben Ericson and Michael Fager. Commissioner Kaye served as acting chairperson

Additional attendees: Stephen Winslow, Conservation Agent to the Commission. Mathias Neuber, prospective member.

Minutes from Last Meeting: The April 26, 2006 minutes were approved with minor edits after a motion by L. Brukilacchio, seconded by C. Koutalidis.

The May 24, 2006 minutes were approved with minor edits after a motion by J. Reinhardt, seconded by J. Reinhardt.

Membership: Chairperson Ben Ericson has resigned now that his family has moved. Commission members planned a picnic in August in honor of Ben and other past Conservation Commission members.

Commissioners noted that all members except Ms. Pyle had not officially been re-appointed to their positions.

Mathias Neuber of 49 Electric Avenue in Somerville has offered to join the Commission. Mr. Neuber is a lawyer and wildlife biologist. C. Koutalidis moved to endorse Mr. Neuber's application for Commission membership, E. Pyle seconded the motion.

Voted Unanimously: To endorse the application of Mr. Neuber to the Commission.

Ms. Kaye nominated Ms. Pyle to be elected chairperson for the remainder of the year. J. Reinhardt seconded. Ms. Pyle accepted the nomination.

Voted Unanimously: To endorse the application of Ms. Pyle to be Chairperson.

II. Wetland Hearings

A. none

III. Financial Report

A. Funds from General Fund Account

S. Winslow presented the budget for FY 2006-2007

IV. Old Business

- A. New England Grassroots Grant
Delia Kaye will write a close out report.

- B. Shore Drive Matter

The Commission discussed further options to move forward with the Shore Drive Matter involving Mr. Fitzgerald of 79 Shore Drive. Mr. Winslow was unable to secure a contract with a wetlands expert due to the close-out of the fiscal year. He also thought that preparing a restoration plan without meeting with Mr. Fitzgerald first to let him know might not be productive.

Commissioners continued to express that Mr. Fitzgerald should be held accountable for his actions and that some restoration with native vegetation on the banks would be appropriate.

A consensus was reached to meet with Mr. Fitzgerald before preparing any restoration plan and then to engage the Department of Conservation Recreation in any planned restoration. Commissioners Pyle and Kaye agreed to participate in the meeting.

- C. Dilboy Field – no report

- D. Dilboy Playground

Mr. Winslow reported that the Department of Conservation contractor ended up changing the grade of the area and appeared to have raised part of the area by the new swing set by up to 6 inches in the flood plain. This did not comply with the Commission's condition in the negative determination that no change in grade occur.

DCR did indicate that it plans to re-seed the area in question. Commissioners asked that Mr. Winslow send a letter requesting that DCR provide a plan for compensatory flood storage.

- E. Conwell Capen / VNA

Mr. Winslow reported that some hay bales had been broken up or swept away by the recent storm. The site is now vegetated but dirt could be seen on the asphalt. He contacted the VNA to address the problem.

V. New Business

- A. NPDES compliance form: Mr. Winslow asked Commissioner's to explain what level of commitment the Commission has made to be involved in NPDES Phase II compliance. Commissioners reported that the Commission had focused on public

education and outreach and that former Agent Anne Phelps had worked on this. There had not been any specific funding for this effort by the Con Com.

VI. Communications

1. Website: No update.

VIII. Other Updates

1. BioDiversity Day had been rained out.
2. DCR plans to reconstruct the Mystic Valley Parkway Bridge in the near future. Mr. Winslow met with them and discussed the need to apply for a Notice of Intent.

Motion for Adjournment at 8:46 pm by M. Fager seconded by C. Koutalidis.

Approved Unanimously

Respectfully submitted,
Stephen Winslow, SPCD

Final Minutes Approved: 10/25/06