



**October 29, 2003
Conservation Commission
Approved Meeting Minutes**

I. Meeting was unable to open at Office of Housing and Community Development (OHCD) conference 3rd floor of City Hall, 93 Highland Street, Somerville, as planned. Instead, after 25 minutes, the meeting convened at Café Rossini, 2788 Highland Ave., Somerville.

Present were: Conservation Commission (CC) members John Reinhardt, Kim Stollar, and Michael Fager, and Agent Anne Phelps. Since there are presently only 5 members on the CC, this constitutes a quorum. Also present was Andrea Bowman, Tufts (Urban Environmental Policy, UEP) graduate student.

Introductions were made.

Review Minutes

Minutes from September 24, 2003, were reviewed and minor corrections made.

Vote: Motion made by JR to accept minutes as amended. MF seconded. All in favor.

II. Budget

Anne reported on the CC operating budget and the revolving fund budgets (budgets in office files). Anne has spent all of her funds for office supplies, and asked the CC to approve a transfer of \$100 from Photocopying to increase the Office Supply budget line.

Vote: JR moved to increase Office Supplies budget line by \$100. MF seconded. All in favor.

III. Administration

The next meeting will be held on December 3, 2003, at Somerville City Hall, 93 Highland Ave., at 7pm, on the 3rd floor, Office of Housing and Community Development (OHCD) conference room.

IV. Old Business

Report on Glen Garden bulb-planting- Anne and Leanne Darrigo held a “bulb-planting” event at Glen Garden located at the Michael E. Capuano Early Childhood Center, on Saturday 25 October. A very small number of people (7) came to the event, and Leanne and Anne will continue to try to publicize the availability of the garden for use in Spring 2004.

Boat Hull at Blessing of the Bay – Anne reported it is now gone, hauled away by MDC as trash.

Alewife/Mystic Classification letter- John asked Anne if she could use selected information from the Mystic River Watershed Association’s (MyWRA) response letter to MWRA’s Final Report on the Variance, to prepare a letter to send in the name of the CC. The letter will recommend that the present water quality variance be maintained for now, that the variance be continued until the Cambridge project is completed, and or until MWRA has collected sufficient data to justify a downgrade of the water classification.

Reminder: Anne reminded the CC members of the Metro Region Conservation Commission Agents (MRCCA) networking event they are invited to attend with other CCs on 12 Nov. 6:30-9:30, in Medford.

Anne’s review – the CC suggested that Anne prepare a list of projects and give it to the CC to review, before setting the FY04 goals in the Annual Report.

New Business

IKEA - DEP Ch 91 Waterways permit-comments – Anne sent out copies of the DEP letter granting IKEA a Waterways permit, and calling for comments. The CC has noted that DEP’s conditions were consistent with or more extensive than recommendations by the Somerville CC. Accordingly, the CC has no additional comments.

Questions for MWRA re Wellington Bridge – Massachusetts Water Resources Agency (MWRA) is scheduled to begin water pipeline work at the Wellington Bridge in 2004. In advance of that MWRA has planned to provide information to the CC for feedback during the CC meeting in December. MWRA asks if there are particular questions the CC would like answered. The CC requests a summary of the work prior to answering this question. Anne will contact MWRA for this information.

Committees

Durrell – Anne reported that water has been installed at Durrell, and they are now awaiting approval for the landscaping contract to schedule the landscaper’s work

Quincy – since Janet McGowan is gone, we need a new “lead person” for Quincy to keep momentum going there. KS said she will think about this.

Vote: MF moved to adjourn. KS seconded. All voted in favor. Meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne Phelps, Agent