

**Salem Conservation Commission
Minutes of Meeting**

Date and Time: Thursday, June 9, 2016, 6:30 p.m.
Meeting Location: Third Floor Conference Room, City Hall Annex, 120
Washington Street
Members Present: Chair Gregory St. Louis, Tyler Glode, Tom Campbell, Gail
Kubik, Scott E. Sheehan,
Members Absent: Dan Ricciarelli, Bart Hoskins
Others Present: Tom Devine, Conservation Agent
Recorder: Stacy Kilb

Chair St. Louis calls the meeting to order at 6:35PM.

- 1. Old Salem Jail Parking Lot—Public Hearing—Request for Determination of Applicability—City of Salem, 93 Washington Street, Salem, MA. The purpose of this hearing is to discuss the proposed construction of a parking lot and appurtenances on Bridge Street between Howard Street and St. Peter Street, in front of the Old Salem Jail, within an area subject to protection under the Wetlands Protection Act MGL c131§40 and Salem Wetlands Protection & Conservation Ordinance.**

Presenting is David Knowlton, City Engineer. He describes the existing and proposed conditions. 17 spaces are planned. The Design Review Board has reviewed this project, and he has also been before the Planning Board. Eight trees will be removed and replaced, and a walking path added. There will also be bicycle accommodation and space for public art. This project is in the floodplain but not in any other resource area.

Gail Kubik asks if the DRB commented on the wall of the cemetery; this was a concern and the closest point will be 5' from the wall. There will also be curbing and a tree at that point to protect the wall. Chair St. Louis comments that angled parking is not ideal, and the applicant agrees, but it is necessary in order to maintain flow and keep the number of spaces. Logistics of the site, including the sidewalk and parking spaces, are discussed. This is City property. There is a pay kiosk as the spaces are mainly meant for the restaurant and turnover is expected.

Chair St. Louis asks about drainage and Mr. Knowlton elaborates.

Chair St. Louis opens to the public but there are no comments.

Scott Sheehan wonders about sustainability of the City as a whole, regarding sea level rise. Devine notes that while the application describes the flood zone as Bordering Land Subject to Flooding, he considers it to be Land Subject to Coastal Storm Flowage.

A motion to close the public hearing is made by Sheehan, seconded by Campbell, and passes 5-0.

A motion to issue a negative 2 and negative 6 determination is made by Glode, seconded by Kubik, and passes 5-0.

- 2. Old/New Business**

- **South Essex Sewerage District Marblehead pipeline, Request for Certificate of Compliance: DEP #64-558.**

David Michelsen and Rachael Burckardt present. Mr. Michelsen describes the history of the project. Work in the coastal resource area has been completed. Copies of all paperwork have been provided. Devine passes around photographs from his site inspection. The only deviations were some rock on the Salem side that required adjusting the alignment of the pipes, plus some rocks over the pipe for protection in a shallow area, which were reviewed by the Agent and the Chair and approved as an administrative change.

The deviations from the proposed trajectory are outlined in more detail. Revised plans have been submitted to Chapter 91. Protection measures that were put in place during construction are described. Work was also limited to certain periods due to winter flounder activity. Ms. Burckardt describes the timing of the work and how it was impacted by winter weather. The Army Corps of Engineers had also issued an amended permit to allow it to be backfilled in a timely fashion despite winter delays.

Devine passes around photos of a restoration area taken at a site visit. Chair St. Louis asks about cathodic protection. Michelson states that it is not needed since the pipes are not metal.

Campbell asks about a submerged vessel that had been identified; Ms. Burckhardt mentions that a bottom survey was done and an underwater archaeologist thought it might be of historic interest, but it was from the 1970's so is not.

Further inspections of other pipelines in the system will occur this year. Devine says the main special condition was the requirement for eel grass survey and mitigation of any loss. There was an increase in eelgrass.

There are no comments from the public.

A motion to issue the Certificate of Compliance is made by Kubik, seconded by Campbell, and passes 5-0.

- **Hubon/Thorndike Street subdivision, Request for a Minor Modification: DEP #64-538.**

Joe Skomursky presents regarding lot 5. He describes the development and the modification. Instead of Aquabrick pavers he would like to install a washed peastone driveway. There will be no other changes to what was approved. Mr. Skomursky describes the Aquabrick vs. the peastone, and drainage on the site. The driveway in question and one other one is described. Devine outlines the history of the project overall; Mr. Skomursky has only worked on some of the lots in the development. A Certificate of Compliance was issued for Lot 3 even though it had a different type of paver; the Chair had commented at that time that any applicant was required to come before the Commission before any further deviations from approved pavers are installed.

The Chair generally approves of peastone but would like a cross section; Mr. Skomursky describes the

various layers and layout of the materials. Chair St. Louis comments on an issue with peastone on a private road being plowed onto a coastal beach in the winter. That is not an issue here. Campbell asks about peastone maintenance in the winter and Mr. Skomursky outlines; Aquabricks can require even more maintenance.

A motion to approve a minor modification for the change of driveway surface type from Aquabrick pavers to a stone and peastone cross section consisting of Marafi fabric, 6-8 inches of ¾" crushed stone and 3 inches of peastone is made by Kubik, seconded by Campbell, and passes 5-0.

- **Discussion and vote regarding funding for a Wild Edibles Walk at the Forest River Conservation Area.**

Devine requests funding for the walk, which is organized by Stacy Kilb. She and Iris Weaver, the walk leader, describe the walk. Devine comments that City resources can be used to promote the walk.

A motion to approve \$150 for this year's walk is made by Glode, seconded by Kubik, and passes unanimously.

- **Discussion and vote regarding annual funding request for North Shore Greenscapes.**

Barbara Warren from Salem Sound Coastwatch of 12 Federal St. presents. Greenscapes has been done since 2007 and there is a new MS4 (Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System) permit this year, so this item is coming before the Commission later in the year than usual. One key component of the MS4 permit is for public outreach and education about stormwater. The MS4 requirements are described and Ms. Warren states that an assessment of success in changing behavior also must occur. A five-year Outreach and Education Plan is due in September of 2017 and SSCW will spend this year developing it. An outreach brochure defining an MS4 will be developed for the public.

Various Greenscapes offerings are described; all previous materials are also still available. The fee has increased from \$1,800 to \$2,500; this is split with the Engineering Department, so the share for the Conservation Commission is \$1,250 this year. Outreach and Education will be much more time consuming, and additionally, SSCW is now working on the fiscal, rather than calendar, year, so is requesting more funding. Julie Rose in Engineering has already authorized that Department's share. Potential target audiences are discussed. Ms. Warren is confident that this will meet all MS4 requirements. A draft was made in 2012 and input and ideas will be solicited from the communities.

A motion to authorize \$1,250 for the annual Greenscapes Fiscal Year 2017 subscription is made by Sheehan, seconded by Campbell, and passes unanimously, 5-0.

Ms. Warren also updates the Commission on the Living Shoreline project. Rain Gardens on Commercial St. are also discussed.

- **Meeting minutes—May 12, 2016.**

A motion to approve the minutes is made by Sheehan, seconded by Kubik, and passes 5-0.

A motion to adjourn is made by Sheehan, seconded by Campbell, and passes unanimously.

The meeting ends at 7:49PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Stacy Kilb
Clerk, Salem Conservation Commission

Approved by the Conservation Commission on August 11, 2016