

Minutes
Conservation Commission
March 28, 2023

Attendance: David Miller, Reed Pugh, Steve Cohn, Ann Storer, Zeke Nims, Martha Hoyt, Elaine Vreeland, Administrator.

Minutes: The minutes of March 14, 2023, were read and approved by unanimous roll call vote.

Winchester Cultural District: Hilda Wong Doo, rep. Hilda spoke of collaboration with the Aberjona Initiative, and the the 2023 goal of the WCD is to showcase outdoor art year-round within the district. Two sculptures will be introduced on Earth Day, using trash collected on Aberjona River Day to fill them. They will be displayed for two months. The summer exhibit will feature the photoville cubes, and exhibits will be placed on the construction fence at the Winchester Train Station. Three additional sculptures will be featured in the autumn.

18 Sunset Road: Public Hearing, Notice of Intent. It was moved, seconded, and approved by all members except Zeke Nims and Martha Hoyt to open the hearing.

It is proposed to construct a deck and an addition on piers to a single-family home within a floodway.

- Information Submitted:
 - Notice of Intent prepared by Sullivan Engineering Group, dated 11/25/22.
 - Plot Plan: Prepared by Sullivan Engineering Group, dated and stamped 11/25/22, rev. 3/7/23.
- Representatives: Jack Sullivan, PE, Sullivan Engineering Group, Carolyn Rucci, owner.

Mr. Sullivan stated that the proposed work will be located outside the Riverfront Area, that there is no Bordering Vegetated Wetland within 100', but that it is located within the floodplain and floodway at elevation 29. The new addition will be 14' X 26' at elevation 32.6, sitting on piers over a back patio. An existing deck will extend 4', and steps and a roof will be added. The total impervious area will be 397SF, below the trigger the town's stormwater regulations. Four piers will fill 2.5CF of area which will be replaced by regrading a compensatory area at the driveway. It was moved, seconded, and approved by unanimous roll call vote to continue the hearing to April 11, 2023, and to schedule a site visit.

314 Highland Ave.: Con't. Public Hearing, Notice of Intent. It was moved, seconded, and approved by all members except Zeke Nims and Martha Hoyt to open the hearing.

It is proposed to remove existing retaining walls along the property line, restore grading, and to replace with a 3:1 slope treated with loam and seed.

- Information submitted:
 - No new information submitted.
- Representative: Tim Williams, PE., Allen and Major. Associates, Inc.

Members requested a landscape plan plus a three-year knotweed mitigation plan, prepared by a licensed wetland herbicide specialist. In response to a concern of runoff to the adjacent property, Mr. Williams said that he would design an infiltration area at the bottom of the slope. It was moved, seconded, and approved by all members except Zeke Nims and Martha Hoyt to continue the hearing to April 11, 2023.

316 Highland Ave.: Con't. Public Hearing, Notice of Intent. It was moved, seconded, and approved by all members except Zeke Nims and Martha Hoyt to open the hearing.

It is proposed to remove existing retaining walls along the property line, restore grading, and to replace with a 3:1 slope treated with loam and seed.

- Information submitted:
 - No new information submitted.
- Representative: Tim Williams, PE., Allen and Major. Associates, Inc.

Mr. Williams reviewed the plan, said that there were items that need to be updated with the Engineering Department, and promised a new design with an infiltration trench at the bottom of the slope. It was moved, seconded, and approved by all members except Zeke Nims and Martha Hoyt to continue the hearing to April 11, 2023.

MWRA Forest St.: Request for Extension Permit.

- Information presented: Power Point presentation.
- Representative: Jerry Sheehan, MWRA

Mr. Sheen stated that the project is ongoing, needed more time for completion, and presented the following slides:



Massachusetts Water Resources Authority

**MWRA Contract No 7117
Section 89 Water Main Replacement**

**Extension to Existing
Winchester Order of Conditions**

DEP # 534

Expires 4/14/23



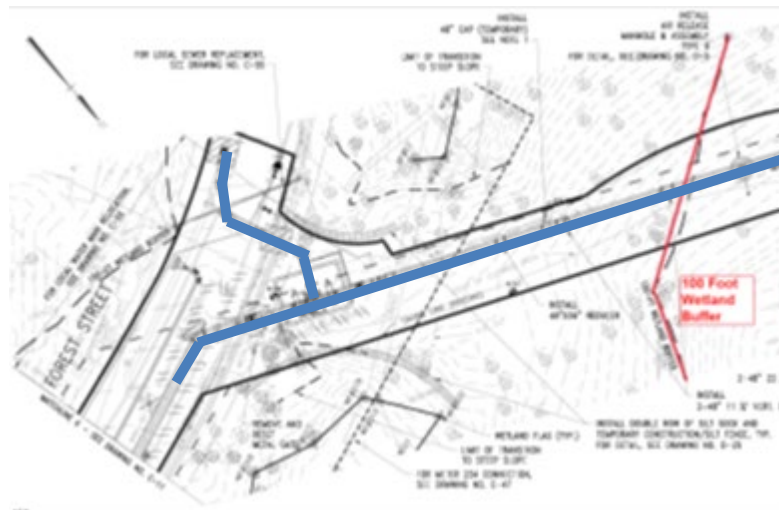
Winchester – MWRA Phase 2 and 3



Massachusetts Water Resources Authority

Forest Street – Winchester

- Erosion Control in place along boundaries of easement
- Removed trees March 2022
- Installed valve structure and connected to Winchester Meter 234
- Pipeline currently installed past the wetland boundary

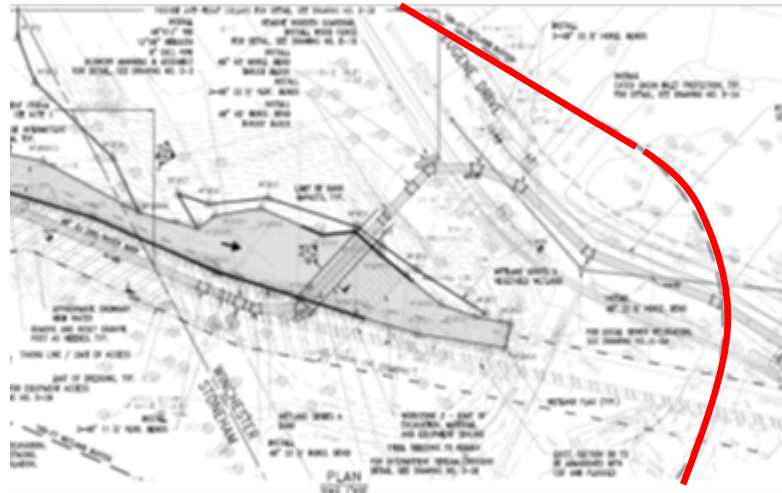


Wetland █ Pipe Installed █ 3



Eugene – Winchester

- Some trees near road removed March 2022
- NO work at this location



Wetland  Pipe Installed  4



Future Work - 2024

- Install 48-inch pipeline from Stoneham Easement to Eugene
- Install pipeline from Eugene to Forest Street
- Subsequent Wetland Restoration and Tree Planting

There followed some discussion about replacement trees, with the understanding that the MWRA would be working with the Conservation Commission and the DPW regarding tree types and locations. Reed noted that we should put together a plan for new plantings, Based on the information presented, it was moved, seconded, and approved by all members excepting Martha Hoyt to grant the Extension Permit for a period of three years.

High School Pollinator Garden: Mike Marchand, Environmental Science teacher, rep. Mr. Marchand explained that there is an existing pollinator garden at the high school, and that he would like the commission to donate money to expand it to include shrubs. He planted it five years ago with wildflowers, which are now decreasing in variety. It was moved, seconded, and approved by unanimous roll call vote to approve up to \$250 for the purchase of flowers and shrubs, with the submission of a receipt. There followed some discussion regarding high school volunteers who would remove invasive plants behind the Arthur Griffin Museum. Elaine said that she had received an email from a middle school teacher who was interested in environmental volunteer opportunities, and Mr. Marchand replied that he would be interested in working with him. He also said that he would forward any report regarding the pollinator garden to the commission when the students finished their study.

Finances: David showed the balances available in the various Conservation accounts and requested that members consider projects that can make use of the money.

Tree Committee: David said that he had spoken to the DPW, and that they had removed 55 trees and planted 12 in 2022.

Commission Logos: David said that he had found an artist, who will be charging \$500 to prepare the artwork. It was moved, seconded, and approved by unanimous roll call vote to go forward with the logos and to authorize up to \$500 for Regan McCain.

Conservation Area Rules: Steve Cohn reported that there are a professional dog walkers who are walking multiple dogs on Mr. Pishah. He said that they had cleared an area to make it easier to clean up dog waste. There followed some discussion as to whether the Commission should change the conservation area rules, or whether the activity should be permitted and users should be registered. Steve said that he would write up possible rules' changes.

Smith Pond Conservation Area: Elaine reported that there had been a sanitary sewer overflow, that DPW had spread lime in the area, and that the area had been cleaned and re-limed. She also said that she had seen no ill effects on vegetation. The DPW will now include this spot for examination during periods of heavy rain.

10 Converse Place: David reported that the DEP site visit had taken place, that the applicants had presented their plans, and that the Commission had presented their reasoning regarding the denial.

Muraco School Culverts: David reported that he had spoken to Luke Boucher from VHB Engineering regarding stream crossing standards and installation of the two new culverts, and had received the following response:

“The project will provide a net benefit to aquatic organisms due to the reduction in the contraction and velocity of the water that will be carried through each culvert. We are not proposing a perched culvert and there will be approximately 1 foot of embedment, similar to the existing culverts. The new culverts are larger in diameter than the existing culverts and will overall improve the openness ratio. This will provide similar or better levels of aquatic organism passage as existing conditions. The existing culverts will be used to convey the Aberjona while work is being performed, as opposed to a pump around, so aquatic organisms will still be allowed passage during construction... We are not proposing any sediment removal from within the culvert. Some sediment will be removed at each end of the proposed culverts to even out the existing grade in the area directly adjacent to the culvert openings”

Eversource Mystic to Woburn Line at Wedgemere Train Station: David reported on the site visit with representatives from Eversource and the Department of Conservation and Recreation. Eversource will submit a landscaping restoration plan for Commission review.

Town Meeting Presentation: David requested comments about a draft Power Point presentation he had emailed to the Commission. Members suggested that he focus on Commission accomplishments in the last year.

Remote/Hybrid Meetings: Elaine reported that the ability to use remote technology has been extended to 2025, and it was the consensus of the members that they preferred a virtual format.

Aberjona River Day: Martha reported that the flyers have been sent, and that people are signing up. Areas and work need to be determined.

Town Day: The idea of photos of conservation areas was discussed.

Miyawaki Forest: Update. Elaine reported that the sub-committee had met, that the Conservation Restriction area at Wright-Locke Farm is the sub-committee’s first choice for a location, and that Prassede Calabi would be contacting the farm, and preparing a report on costs and landscaping choices.

Submitted by: Elaine Vreeland

