

**JOINT MEETING OF THE WEYMOUTH and BRAINTREE
CONSERVATION COMMISSIONS
RECORD OF WEYMOUTH MINUTES AND PROCEEDINGS**

**Thursday, July 6, 2017, 7:00 p.m.
1 JFK Memorial Drive, Braintree, MA**

Present: Thomas Tanner, Chairman
Scott Dowd, Clerk
John Reilly, Vice-Chairman
Frank Singleton, Commissioner

Not Present: George Loring, Commissioner

Also Present: Mary Ellen Schloss, Conservation Administrator

Chairman Tanner called the July 6, 2017 Conservation Commission meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. in Cahill Auditorium of Braintree Town Hall, 1 JFK Memorial Dr., Braintree, MA.

Joint Hearing with the Weymouth Conservation Commission (start 7:05pm)

Smelt Brook – Notice of Intent for Ecological Restoration Limited Project, Public Meeting Continued

Town of Weymouth

#4, #8-24 Commercial Street

Map 20, Block 202, Lots 19 & 20, Commercial Street right-of-way

DEP File # 81-1196

Daylighting approximately 150 feet of Smelt Brook (now culverted) and improvements to approximately 100 feet of culverted stream channel, including reconstruction of the culvert under Commercial Street. Work proposed is located within Weymouth and Braintree.

The Braintree Conservation Commission members present for this meeting were Gus Murphy, Acting Chair, Alan Weinberg, Diane Francis and Joyce Albrecht. Also present was, Conservation Planner, Kelly Phelan.

Bob Luongo, Director Weymouth Planning & Community Development updated both Commissions with the progress of the project since the last meeting. A comment letter had been sent from the Division of Marine Fisheries (DMF). A conference call with DMF Commission occurred yesterday to discuss their concerns. Tonight we don't have a formal response from EBI Consulting but will shortly when discussed further with the Town of Weymouth.

Mary Ellen Schloss summarized the initial DMF letter; first DMF wants a longer length of downstream substrate than the proposed 10 feet inside the pipe located on the Katzen property. The project engineers are concerned that adding substrate inside the pipe could possibly become a hydraulic restriction of the pipe's volume. The other alternative is to open the pipe up to daylight on the property which would be a larger problem with the current development,

requiring major modifications. After discussion, it appears that DMF could live with the 10 feet of substrate if that is the best we can do.

Bob Luongo said DMF understood the restrictions and hopefully we can come back on 8/3 with their blessing.

Mary Ellen Schloss noted their second concern was with existing flows to Smelt Brook from Pond Meadow Park. Currently, there is flow when smelt spawn in March thru June. DMF has requested additional flows into the stream year round. The Army Corp of Engineers (ACOE) needs to approve this change to the Operation & Maintenance plan for the Pond Meadow District. She commented that the Town of Weymouth is committed to work with Pond Meadow and ACOE. Bob Luongo added that the Town of Weymouth is committed to increasing the flows.

Mary Ellen noted the third comment was regarding the trapezoidal design of the channel and depth and velocity of the flows – EBI Consulting agreed to provide additional data to address the design details. DMF also asked that a short resting pool could be provided and EBI Consulting will look into a location.

The final concern was with the design of the geogrid substrate because a similar design in Quincy's project resulted in some of the stones coming out of the substrate – EBI will provide revised plans to address the DMF comments as well as a response letter with additional information and provide it also to both Towns before 8/3. The Town of Weymouth still has to obtain a Chapter 91 license and 404 permit which EBI will be applying for on behalf of the Town. Final revised plans for both Commissions and the state agencies of those permits are needed that will incorporate the DMF comments.

Robert Luongo expressed his concern that we will miss the construction season and then be further delayed with the smelt spawning time. It is the grant from Mass Works that sets a crucial schedule. We need to start drawing on the funds in FY18 and be completed by June 30th. He intends to go back and talk with them about any slippage with the schedule. Weymouth would like to finalize the Order of Conditions in August.

Mary Ellen Schloss asked if everyone is comfortable with the initial responses of EBI. Chair Gus Murphy asked Kelly Phelan if she is comfortable with where the project is. She said that EBI's response to many of the items raised in the staff report was to ask that those items be conditioned; dewatering plans, construction sequencing, etc. Braintree will condition for certain information prior to the start of construction.

Weymouth Chairman Tanner asked procedural questions about the Order of Conditions: will we try and make the conditions the same in one order or will we issue two separate orders? If two, how will we make them not be conflicting? Mary Ellen Schloss commented each Town will have their own Order since two different DEP numbers. The Commissioner asked if this is achievable for Braintree as well for the next meeting on 8/3? Kelly Phelan responded yes we will work with Weymouth to protect the grant and agrees it is imperative to have the Order ready to vote 8/3. Gus Murphy noted his agreement.

Bob Luongo is confident we are able to do it and commented on the good cooperation of the two Mayors and town's staff to get it done. Alan Weinberg asked if the Commission (s) would be approving the plans and Mary Ellen Schloss said yes we would and we would try and get the plans a week in advance. Bob Luongo said we are working with EBI to get them in a timely manner as soon as possible.

Alan Weinberg asked if EBI will be here on the 8/3 meeting and Bob Luongo responded yes; they are not here tonight because he is watching the budget and he wanted to save money for this meeting but they will be definitely be here. The joint meeting with both boards is preferable for the budget.

Tom Tanner asked that after getting the plans if minor changes need to be made that they be conditioned in order to keep the schedule moving and both staff responded yes.

Weymouth Commissioner Reilly motioned to continue the public hearing to 8/3 – seconded by Weymouth Commissioner Singleton. Unanimous vote.

Alan Weinberg made a motion to continue the public hearing to 8/3, seconded by Joyce Albrecht– Unanimous vote.

Adjournment

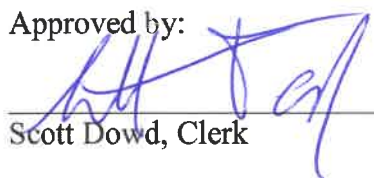
Weymouth Conservation Commission left at the conclusion of the Smelt Brook hearing.

On a motion made by Cmmr. Dowd, seconded by Cmmr. Singleton, the Commission voted 4-0-0 to adjourn at approximately 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Mary Ellen Schloss
Weymouth Conservation Administrator

Approved by:



Scott Dowd, Clerk



Date