

City of Boston Conservation Commission
Public Hearing Meeting Minutes
Boston City Hall, Hearing Room 801
Boston, Massachusetts, 02201

November 2, 2011

Commissioners Present: Charles Button - Chairman, Vivien Li, John Lewis, Aldo Ghirin, John Sullivan

Commissioners Not Present: Jeanne McHallam, Stephen Kunian, Antonia Pollak

Staff Present: Chris Busch, Executive Director

6:10 PM Notice of Intent from Mary Frances Milburn for the reconstruction of a two family home, 1825-1827 River Street, Hyde Park, Mother Brook (100-foot Buffer Zone to Inland Bank).
Owner: Mary Francis Milburn
Representatives: Mary Francis Milburn; Steven Petitpas, Aesthetic Images
Documents: Project plans and details as provided in the project Notice of Intent.

S. Petitpas – Essentially we are reconstructing an existing two family home that was damaged by fire. We had to remove the structure after the fire per the Fire Department, so all that is currently on site is a stone foundation. The intent is to rebuild the home in the same size and massing as the prior structure. There is no change in size, shape or number of units.

C. Button – Questions or comments?

A. Ghirin – The home will be built on the same foundation?

S. Petitpas – Yes

A. Ghirin – I would ask that we have a condition requiring the proponent to contact the Parks Commission to determine if review is necessary.

J. Sullivan – Are you reusing all the existing utilities?

M. Milburn – We had cut and capped all the utilities after the fire, and then will uncap them when the home is rebuilt.

J. Sullivan – Plans need to also be submitted to BWSC and ISD.

S. Petitpas – We will get plans into BWSC this week.

C. Button – Do we have a motion?

A. Ghirin – I move the draft Order as amended?

J. Lewis – Second.

- **Motion made by A. Ghirin and seconded by J. Lewis to issue an Order of Conditions for the project as amended and close the hearing (voted 5/0/0)**

6:20 PM Notice of Intent from Boston Harbor Cruises for the stabilization of a portion of existing seawall involving the placement of a steel plate and soldier pile form along the base of the wall and installation of concrete to encase exposed timber piles and base stones, Long Wharf, Old Atlantic Avenue, Boston Inner Harbor (Land Under Ocean, Coastal Bank, Land Subject to Coastal Storm Flowage).
Owner: Boston Redevelopment Authority
Representatives: Rick Nolan, BHC; Rebecca Skalaski, Childs Engineering
Documents: Project plans and details as provided in the project Notice of Intent.

V. Li – For the record Boston Harbor Cruises and Childs Engineering are dues paying members of my employer The Boston Harbor Association.

R. Skalaski – What we are proposing to do is place a formwork along the face of the granite stone seawall at Long Wharf. There is a similar repair that was done further down. The work is being planned to prevent a failure of the wall. There is currently a deck above the wall, so we will need to open sections of the deck to slide plates through bents in the pier. Once the formwork is in place tremie concrete will be placed behind.

C. Button – We need a final set of stamped plans.

R. Skalaski – We will submit a final set.

C. Button – How will you prevent the concrete from leaking out?’

R. Skalaski – They will use grout bags to help contain the area.

J. Lewis – How will the plates be installed?

R. Skalaski – At the bents of the pier the deck will be removed and the sheeting dropped down.

J. Sullivan – Who owns the wall?

R. Skalaski – The BRA.

R. Nolan – The reason we are doing the work is because we are in lease negotiations with the BRA and this was a concern. Since the city didn’t have the money to do the work it was wrapped in with the lease.

V. Li – When do you intend to start the work and how long will it take?

R. Nolan – Sometime next month. The work should take four to six weeks.

J. Lewis – How much will the work cost?

R. Nolan – Around half a million.

C. Button – Questions or comments from the public? – No public comment.

C. Busch – I did receive a letter from the Division of Marine fisheries expressing concern over the placement of sheeting and concrete in Land Under Ocean and asked that the proponent look at other design options. I am not aware of any other methodology for conducting this type of stabilization work.

R. Skalaski – There is really no other way of doing the work. The sheeting will be placed tight up against the wall minimizing impacts.

C. Button – Any issues with the draft Order of Conditions?

R. Skalaski – No issues.

C. Button – Do we have a motion?

J. Lewis – So moved.

V. Li – Second.

- **Motion made by J. Lewis and seconded by V. Li to issue an Order of Conditions for the project as amended and close the hearing (voted 5/0/0)**

6:38 PM Request for Certificate of Compliance for Order of Conditions DEP File No. 006-1247 from the Boston Parks and Recreation Department for the repair of an existing granite block seawall at Ryan Playground, 51 Alford Street, Charlestown, Mystic River.

C. Busch – I did receive the request and conducted a site inspection last week and have some issues with the condition of the property. Specifically there was a pile of debris still in place as well as silt fence still installed. I would recommend deferring action on the matter until these issues are resolved by the Parks Department

- **Motion made by V. Li and seconded by A. Ghirin to continue review of the Request for Certificate of Compliance (voted 5/0/0).**

6:40 PM Request for Certificate of Compliance for Order of Conditions DEP File No. 006-1229 from The Gillette Company for the construction of a floating dock and fixed platform in the Fort Point Channel, involving the installation of pilings, footings and a gangway, and the installation of an underground water line, 233 A Street, South Boston.

C. Busch – I did receive a Certificate of Compliance Request with an engineer’s sign off. I reviewed the Order and all of the conditions have been met. A maintenance plan was submitted to the Commission, however, the plan has not formally been accepted by DEP. A site visit was conducted and the work was completed in conformance with the submitted plans.

- **Motion made by V. Li and seconded by J. Lewis to issue a Certificate of Compliance (voted 5/0/0).**

6:45 PM Staff report on an Emergency Certificate issued to the Boston Parks and Recreation Department for the restoration of collapsed sections of a retaining wall along the Arborway, Arnold Arboretum, Goldsmith Brook.

C. Busch – I issued an Emergency Certificate to the Parks Department due to collapsed sections of the retaining wall along the Arborway. There is currently a work crew on site establishing a new foundation and using the existing stone to rebuild the wall. They have also received necessary approvals from the state as it is an historic wall. Erosion and sediment controls are also in place to contain the work site.

C. Button – I have seen the area and it does pose a hazard to those walking in the area.

- **Motion made by V. Li and seconded by J. Lewis to approve the June 22, 2011 public hearing meeting minutes as amended (voted 5/0/0).**
- **Motion to adjourn made by A. Ghirin and seconded by J. Lewis (voted 5/0/0).**