

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

**October 8, 2014**

**Commissioners Present:** Aldo Ghirin, Vivien Li, Michael Wilson, Jacob Kritzer  
**Commissioners Not Present:** Charles Button, John Sullivan Jr., Stephen Kunian  
**Staff Present:** Van Du, Acting Executive Secretary

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**Motion made by A. Ghirin and seconded by J. Kritzer to appoint V. Li as the meeting chair (4/0/0, 6:05 PM).**

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**6:05 PM Notice of Intent for DEP File No. 006-1406** from Massachusetts Port Authority for airfield maintenance at Logan International Airport. *Continued from 9/17/14 hearing*

*Representatives:* James Stolecki of Massachusetts Port Authority

V. Li stated that Massport is a dues paying member of her employer, The Boston Harbor Association.

Jim briefly summarized the proposed project, which is part of the extensive wildlife management plan designed to ensure airline passenger safety.

V. Li asked for questions and comments from the public.

V. Li asked that there will be no dumping of snow into the Boston Harbor. J. Stolecki confirmed.

Commission reviewed and accepted the project proponent's proposed changes to the Order of Conditions.

- **Motion made by J. Kritzer and seconded by M. Wilson to issue the Order of Conditions with the following amendments: (4/0/0, 6:18 PM)**
  - Delete the following conditions in the draft order of conditions: 29, 33, 39, 42-48, 51-59, 60-63, 65-69, 73, 74

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**6:19 PM Notice of Intent for DEP File No. 006-1405** from Norwood Engineering Company, Inc. for a single-family dwelling development at 104 Beaver Street, Hyde Park, MA. *Continued from 9/17/14 hearing*

*Representatives:* Donald Myers of Norwood Engineering Company, Inc.; Blair Hynes, landscape architect; Florrie Mahoney, property owner of 104 Beaver Street

D. Myers presented the project, revised plan, and provided supplemental information on landscape plan. The revised plan would shift the private road further away from Stony Brook.

F. Mahoney stated that she has spoken with C. Taylor, abutting property owner.

B. Hynes presented plan of replanting trees, introducing more native species, typical residential design with shade & flowering trees.

V. Li asked for the number of trees to be removed and replanted. D. Myers stated that there will be the removal of 12 trees and the replanting of 8 native species trees.

D. Myers pointed out that the site is outside of the 100-yr flood plain.

D. Myers stated that BWSC has not seen the revised reduced road, but John Sullivan had been sent the proposal.

D. Myers agreed to adding language to the deed regarding maintenance of private road.

D. Myers stated that he had sent plans to DCR for comments. D. Myers also sent plans to Parks Commission, and awaiting approval from them.

A. Ghirin expressed concern that comments had not yet been received from DCR, as the proposed project abuts state DCR lands.

J. Kritzer shared similar concern about wanting to know DCR's comments.

J. Kritzer also commented on the replanting plan & the usage of native plants.

V. Li mentioned about tree canopy & 3:1 planting ratio (included in CAP discussion).

V. Li asked for the timetable of the construction if all permits are issued. F. Mahoney stated 12 weeks.

V. Li asked whether the project had received all other permits needed, aside from BCC and Parks Commission. F. Mahoney stated that the BRA preferred to wait until all other Commissions have commented; they are anticipating BRA approval within a few days after that. BWSC approval is anticipated, and Dept. of Public Works does not have jurisdiction on the private way.

V. Li suggested the issuance of the OOCs with additional condition added that DCR's comment must be submitted prior to construction.

Commission reviews draft OOCs. D. Myers stated satisfactory.

- **Motion made by A. Ghirin and seconded by J. Kritzer to issue the Order of Conditions with the following amendments: (4/0/0, 6:43 PM):**
  - Additional condition: Before construction, project proponent must submit a copy of the approval letter from the Parks & Recreation Commission; approval from Boston Water and Sewer Commission, and correspondence from DCR.
  - Additional condition: At minimum, additional 9 trees planted.
  - Additional condition: Include in the deed the continuing maintenance of the private street, including snow plow by the property owner.

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## **7: 26 PM Updates and General Business**

- Presentation from Massport on Logan Runway Safety Area Project
  - *Representative:* Stewart Dalzell from Massport
  - V. Li stated that Massport is the dues paying member of her employer, The Boston Harbor Association.
  - S. Dalzell presented the mitigation plan of Runway 33L RSA –back in 2007, started a project to upgrade 33L RSA and 22R RSA. FAA directed all airports to upgrade their runway safety area—for landing/take off purposes, “buffer zone”. The project has posed impacts on eelgrass at 33L and on salt marsh on 22R.
  - Construction of 33L started in 2011, elected to do that in pile-supported deck, soft concrete; what couldn't avoid is the blocking of sunlight that support the eelgrass—required by MA DEP to do mitigation, 3:1 ratio; transplanting of eelgrass from surrounding areas in the Harbor –and failed.
  - S. Dalzell stated that Massport has reached out to MA DEP, EPA, Marine Fisheries, DCR –proposing to create an education opportunity on eelgrass (conference, symposium, demonstration of eelgrass on Harbor Walk, signage for boating purposes). TBHA thinks

- very nice suggestions but still not enough efforts, and asked to continue consider addition ideas and solutions for mitigation. Massport has spoken with UMass Boston class, which the students are conducting research projects in the Harbor—Massport would like to reach out to these students and provide support to pursue continuing of their studies or projects.
- J. Kritzer asked whether previous working groups issued any reports on why the eelgrass project failed. S. Dalzell stated that reporting was mostly anecdotal, but had some understanding to share of the criteria for eelgrass to survive.
  - J. Kritzer asked about the planting density and whether it affects the eelgrass's survival rate. S. Dalzell stated that different attempts and approaches have been considered for this matter.
  - J. Kritzer stated that 2012 was the hottest summer Boston experienced, and asked whether that affected the eelgrass project. S. Dalzell explained all different approaches the working groups have tried.
  - J. Kritzer commended the mitigation efforts which Massport has attempted.
  - M. Wilson commented positively to the idea of doing signage on the issue for educational purposes and awareness.
  - V. Li requested that Massport come back to the Commission with plan for signage location, which to be done before the Symposium on Eelgrass in March 2015.
  - V. Li also requested updates on Massport's collaboration with UMass Boston and other working groups on additional mitigation/alternative options, etc. (in 60 days or before end of the year).
  - J. Kritzer requested more information and study on the impact of signage—whether educational signage will be useful and works.
- Presentation from MA DCR on the request to cut the vegetation along the riverbank between Weeks & Anderson bridges.
    - *Representatives:* Rick Corsi and Nick Gove of DCR; Tom Martin, treasurer of the Head of the Charles Regatta
    - V. Li stated that the MA DCR is dues paying member of her employer, TBHA.
    - N. Gove presented the request & issues related to cutting history in the area.
    - T. Martin presented the importance of the Regatta.
    - V. Li asked the reason for cutting the vegetation to 18 inches, how debris will be collected and removed. N. Gove stated that the cutting will be primarily for aesthetic purposes, and will attempt to keep the clipping as much on the slope as possible.
    - A. Ghirin asked the DCR and HCR to come back each year with report & update.
    - M. Wilson commented that the cutting should be done year round, and would like to see in 6 months a plan to manage this area –including how the rowing community can engage with state agency to produce a study on impact of foot traffic to this resources area.
    - V. Li re-stated that HCR is requesting for an activities in a resource area.
    - T. Martin agreed that there should be a long-term plan and HRC would execute.
    - J. Kritzer commented that there should be a permanent fix (landscaping, replanting plan) to serve the benefits the area provides (environmentally & aesthetically). J. Kritzer also stated that the benefits of this cutting should not be limited to only around the time of the race.
    - V. Li suggested a follow-up report from HCR.
    - M. Wilson commented that mechanical cutting sometimes may cause vegetation to come back faster and thicker. R. Corsi agreed.
    - J. Kritzer commented on the arbitrary nature of the proposed height and manual vs. mechanical cutting methods.
    - The Commissioners requested that any request for cutting next year must be received in advance (and not 2 weeks before event), no less than 24 inches of vegetation must be kept, a report & follow-up plan from HCR (consulted by DCR) presentation in March 2015, including “permanent fix.” HCR will need to come forth with a viable plan, not depending on DCR funding.
  - Administrative Approval for the request to remove invasive growth in the Charles River Esplanade Lagoon

- *Representative*: Rick Corsi and Nick Gove of MA DCR
  - J. Kritzer raised concern regarding whether the hand removal method is effective.
  - J. Kritzer expressed interest in reviewing a long-term plan for the maintenance of the lagoon
  - N. Gove stated that at one point there was a fountain to help move the flow and prevent milfoil growth
  - Request for Certificate of Compliance for DEP File 006-1384
    - **Motion made by J. Kritzer and seconded by M. Wilson to issue the Certificate of Compliance (4/0/0, 8:06 PM)**
  - Review & Approval of Meeting Minutes of 8/20/14
    - **Motion made by A. Ghirin and seconded by M. Wilson to adopt the minutes as written (4/0/0, 8:07 PM).**
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- **Motion made by J. Kritzer and seconded by M. Wilson to adjourn the meeting (4/0/0, 8:08).**

Respectfully submitted,

*Van Du*

Van H. Du  
Acting Executive Secretary