



53 RIVER STREET MASTER PLAN COMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES NOVEMBER 15, 2022

7:00 PM
Virtual Meeting

Present: David Martin, Peter Hocknell, Ilana Liebert, Stephanie Krantz, Bill Alesbury, Andy Magee (project manager).

Absent: Lou York, Bill Klauer, Don Boyle.

1. Opening

David Martin called the meeting to order at 7:04 PM via a virtual meeting with no committee members in physical attendance and broadcasted via Zoom.us virtual meeting platform.

2. Regular Business

- A. A quorum is present.
- B. Notes from the chair – none.
- C. Resident concerns – two were noted: (1) concerns about park design and “Friends of....” type organizations and (2) ensure the meeting was being recorded.
- D. Status of project from Andy: park design is moving forward. Dam removal site work bidding documents have been prepared; park design bidding documents to follow. We received Dam Safety \$1M grant towards project. Must start work in Spring 2023. 2 outstanding permits left to obtain: Federal Permit #401 (water quality certification) (Clean Water Act). Also #404 Wetlands Protection – must issue the 401 prior to the 404. The 401 is expected in the next week or two. For the 404, both the Acton Historic Commission and Massachusetts Historic Commission need to agree to the Memorandum of Agreement. Also the Chapter 91 license is in progress. Surveyors are working in the area to help gather information in order to prepare the documents for the various bidding processes.
- E. Dennis Dale presented his updated park design. Andy indicated his support for a “Friends of” group in order to help maintain the property and remove knotweed, etc. He also reminded the meeting that there will be an archeological consultant present during all excavation activities. Bill Alesbury asked re: projected costs for park. Andy indicated



~\$1.7M we can draw on for this project. Monies from various town sources can be used; for example Select Board climate change issues (~\$0.5M), some additional CPA funds to be used for the tailrace.

Public comments:

- (1) What are the differences between the April park design and the current one? Moving of parking area was the predominant difference, added details for plant species, adjusting terrain to allow for water access, more detail now regarding historic building “ghosting” effects with repurposed stones.
- (2) Compliment Dennis Dale on the park design. Suggestions: (a) have an exhibit designer who helps develops the narrative with physical exhibits and (b) since it does parallel the train; selectively take down some trees to provide viewing corridors and (c) dam removal is a specialized field rather than the park implementation. Should HDC put in for CPC funding at the next cycle under the ‘preservation’ heading?

F. Motion to recommend the park design to the Select Board made by Peter Hocknell and seconded by Bill Alesbury. Voting took place via role call:

Peter Hocknell – Aye
David Martin – Aye
Ilana Liebert – Aye
Bill Alesbury – Aye
Stephanie Krantz – Aye

G. Friends of the River Street Park discussion postponed to our next meeting.

H. Approval of the minutes from the 27 SEP 2022 committee meeting: Motion to accept made by Stephanie Krantz and seconded by Ilana Liebert. Voting took place via role call:

Peter Hocknell – Aye
David Martin – Aye
Ilana Liebert – Aye
Bill Alesbury – Aye
Stephanie Krantz – Aye

I. This committee’s next meeting is tentatively scheduled to take place virtually in January (TBD). David will provide potential dates and times to the committee.

J. Motion to adjourn was made at 8:40 PM by Bill Alesbury and seconded by Peter Hocknell. Voting took place via role call:

Peter Hocknell – Aye
Bill Alesbury – Aye
David Martin – Aye
Ilana Liebert – Aye
Stephanie Krantz – Aye



Documents and Exhibits Used During this Meeting:

- Meeting Agenda for 15 NOV 2022
- Draft minutes from the 27 SEP 2022 committee meeting
- Dennis Dale park design (latest version)