



## 53 RIVER STREET MASTER PLAN COMMITTEE

### MEETING MINUTES

JANUARY 7, 2020

7:00 PM

ACTON RECREATION CENTER, 50 AUDUBON DRIVE

**Present:** Peter Berry, Bill Klauer, Stephanie Krantz, Peter Hocknell, Lou York, Matthew ‘Selby’ (Staff).

**Absent:** Bill Alesbury, Don Boyle.

### 1. Opening

Chair Peter Berry called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

### 2. Regular Business

- A. A quorum is present; the committee size change to 8 full members was approved by the Board of Selectmen (BoS).
- B. Citizens’ Concerns – none.
- C. CPA application – When the draft town budget came out, the town manager included a line item for dam removal for \$138,000. It is estimated that there are approximately \$2 million in Community Preservation Committee (CPC) requests, with about \$1.4 million in actual funding. During the recent BoS meeting, it was decided that the \$138,000 could be used to fund other town projects. Due to Milone & MacBroom’s (MMI) recommendation for budget and timing (see Dec 5, 2019 minutes), the 53 River Street’s CPC application will be reduced from \$960,000 (which would have fully funded dam removal) to \$120,000 (which will cover the dam removal design and permitting). Selby also requested \$1 million for dam removal from the town’s capital budget. Massachusetts offers “Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness” (MVP) grants. The state will cover 75% of dam removal costs with Town of Acton covering the other 25%. Selby submitted an application; we should hear back in February. There is also the Massachusetts Dam and Seawall grant, which will be pursued (funds up to \$1 million).
- D. This committee’s CPC presentation is scheduled for January 14 at 8:20 pm at the Acton Memorial Library. Selby will communicate the reduction in funding request to the CPC by email. Legal counsel’s opinion is that Recreational Use is the most appropriate CPC



project funding designation. Selby, Lou, and Peter Hocknell will prepare the presentation slides; Peter Hocknell will present to the CPC on January 14.

- E. This committee will next need to meet with the Historic District Commission to discuss next steps as the design phase begins. Then the plan will subsequently be presented to the Conservation Commission for approval.
- F. This committee's annual report to the BoS is due January 17. It was moved by Peter Berry to authorize the committee chair to work with Selby to prepare the annual report, seconded by Peter Hocknell. The voice vote was unanimous.
- G. The state-required dam Emergency Action Plan (EAP) was received from MMI prior to the December 31, 2019 deadline. Selby provided a copy to the Massachusetts Office of Dam Safety. Lou commented that this EAP uses the DSS-WISE model, which generates results much faster than the HEC-RAS model, but does not account for culverts or bridges. Also, it treats the dam as if it is always in an impounded state, with water near the top, and on a fair weather day the dam fails. In real weather situations, this is likely not going to be the case; high waters may be found downstream as well. Both GZA and MMI recommend removal of debris in front of the dam and that keeping the existing culverts clean and wide open is the best way to keep the dam stable until removal occurs.
- H. Letter to abutters – tabled to the next committee meeting. Lou will prepare the draft letter now that the EAP is in place.
- I. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 4.
- J. Motion to accept the minutes from December 5, 2019 was moved by Lou York and seconded by Bill Klauer. The voice vote was unanimous.
- K. Peter Hocknell asked when would be the appropriate time to notify the MBTA regarding the dam removal's potential impact on the railroad bridge. Selby will add commentary in the next RFP regarding how to best approach this.
- L. Motion to adjourn moved by Peter Hocknell at 8:36 pm, seconded by Lou York. Voice vote was unanimous.

**Documents and Exhibits Used During this Meeting:**

- Meeting Agenda for January 7, 2020 committee meeting
- Draft minutes from the December 5, 2019 committee meeting
- Community Preservation Act project application
- Milone & MacBroom document: **2019-12-30 fnl rpt River St Dam EAP**