

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

April 16th, 2020

Minutes to the Meeting/Hearing

THIS MEETING WAS DONE REMOTELY USING THE GOTOMEETING PLATFORM

Roll Call:

Tennis Lilly, Chairman- Present
Mary DiMauro- Present
Eric Lundquist- Present
Rachel Torres- Present

Also Present:

Daniel McCarthy, Land Use Planner-Present
Jorge Martinez, Minute Taker- Present

Upon a motion made by Mr. Lundquist and seconded by Ms. DiMauro, the commission unanimously decided to open the public meeting.

Request for Determination

Woodward and Curran

RE: Water Main Replacement on Furber Street

Present to address the board were Todd Prokop and Will Schaetzke. They stated that they were before the commission to bring the second phase of the water main replacement to the attention of the board. Mr. Schaetzke stated that the work that is being performed will primarily take place on Ferber Street. Mr. Schaetzke stated that the water main will be replaced. He then stated that erosion controls and protective measures will be installed. He also added that according to the Wetlands Protection Act the area is exempt for minor repairs and activity.

Mr. Prokop then stated that the project involves excavating and installing pavement each week, but he stated that there will be areas where excavation and installation of pavement will have to be done each day.

Mr. Lilly then asked the members of the board if they had any questions. The other members of the board stated that they did not.

With no further discussion,

The commission voted and the results are as follows:

Eric Lundquist-Yes

Rachel Torres- Yes

Mary DiMauro-Yes

Tennis Lilly, Chairman-Yes

The applicants commission was passed unanimously.

BOARD BUSINESS

The commission then discussed how they would sign documents during these times. It was mentioned that the commission allow the Office of Planning and Development to use signature stamps on behalf of the commission members. The commissioners stated that they approve of that idea.

Fernanda Lopez, a resident of Salem Street then spoke to the commissioners. She stated that she has concerns about many of the historical trees in the area. She added that many old, beautiful trees are being removed seemingly for no reason. She added that she is a fan of the trees and she felt that the removal of the trees was very aggressive. She added that the trees are not only beautiful, but they are also good for the environment. She wanted to know why the public was not involved in the decision.

Mr. Lilly stated that she was not alone in her concerns. He then stated that he the city missed out on an opportunity to have some dialogue with the public. He added that the trees that were removed around that area may have been sick and as a result they were a danger to the public. He then stated that the public should have been made aware of the tree removal and he also feels like the public should be able to morn the removal of the trees as well. He also stated that the commission can take control of monitoring the trees. He added that establishing a Tree Commission that would either be within the commission or filled by other people would be very useful and it would help raise funds and bring attention to the issue. He then added that Groundwork Lawrence is doing a great job planting trees around the city, but there is no cohesive citywide plan.

Ms. DiMauro agreed.

Ms.Lopez stated that she was devastated that the trees were removed. She added that knowledge is power and she stated that it would be awesome to turn the city into a city that supports green initiatives.

Ms.Torres and Mr. Lundquist agreed. They added that they would keep Ms. Lopez in the loop.

Mr. Lilly stated that the tree warden would need to participate as well. He also stated that many city offices would need to coordinate with each other as well.

Mr. McCarthy stated that the tree warden has the ability to deputize others and make them deputy tree wardens.

Mr. Lilly then stated that the Tree Commission would have the power to vote on which trees to remove. He then stated that the role of the commission would be more proactive than reactive. It was mentioned that the commission should propose the idea during the next in-person meeting.

Ms. Torres then asked if the commission tables during events. Mr. Lilly stated that they do not, but that it would be a good idea.

Upon a motion made by Mr. Lundquist and seconded by Ms. DiMauro, the commission unanimously decided to adjourn the public meeting.