

South Portland Conservation Commission
Minutes 7/24/17

Present: Bret Bergst, Dan Hogan, Barbara Dee, Megan Sheehan, Bob McKeagney, Jody Meredith, Cory McKenna

Guest: Pat Cloutier, Director, Water Resources Protection

Minutes from 7/10/17 were approved

Water Resource Protection

Pat Cloutier gave the Commission a quick overview of the department's work since the Clean Water Act in 1979. WRP has focused on stormwater in recent years and only 6 CSO (combined sewer outflows) remain. As a result, South Portland is currently contributing less than 1% of the current Maine discharge.

The 2010 Freshwater Report was done quickly and many recommendations were not followed. Mr. Cloutier recommended that a detailed inventory of wetlands should be done first before writing a new plan. This will help the Commission effectively set priorities and develop strategies for preserving remaining wetlands as well as restoring those which have been damaged. The Freshwater Compensation Fund could be used to fund this work. The Commission will discuss moving this plan forward and investigating the funding of this plan at its meeting on 8/7/17.

In a general discussion of the City's wetlands, members discussed the planning process in the city, awareness of wetlands issues, possible further contributions to the compensation fund annually for areas with impervious surfaces, and political support for possible initiatives.

Mr. Cloutier and the Commission discussed the engineering study for the Mildred Street project. The City will be doing extensive work in that neighborhood next year, so the timing of the project is critical. The Woodward and Curran estimate would move the project forward - bringing it up to about 30% of the design process. Input from the neighborhood is critical and W&C would head up efforts to have community meetings. Once approved, there would be a kickoff meeting with involved parties. Two members of the Commission could be a part of the process.

A budget for the Commission was discussed in general terms. Mr. Cloutier stated that a budget should reflect the Commission's priorities and let the City Council and residents know what the Commission is doing. Further discussions of the budget will be held in future meetings.

Mildred Street Work

After Mr. Cloutier left the meeting, the Commission discussed his recommendations and voted on the Woodward and Curran Engineering proposal on the Mildred Street Pond. The

Commission voted 5 to 2 to fund the project. Cory McKenna and Jody Meredith will provide representation to the project from the Commission.

Open Space Plan

The revised draft of the RFP has been sent to Patti Smith who will discuss it with the City Manager on 7/25/17. Input from Kate Lewis of the South Portland Land Trust was added. Next steps will be discussed at the 8/7/17 meeting.

Items for the next 8/7/17 agenda

FWCF Grants

Mildred Street Project

Harbor Dredging Project

Freshwater Inventory