

Meeting Minutes, September 14, 2021

Malden Conservation Commission

Attending:

- G. Laskey
- K. Zmijewski
- I. Slavitt (Chair)
- K. Mazonson
- K. Kaba

Non-voting

- R. Roseen (Clerk)

Absent:

- P. Buckley
- M. Burne

Vacant seats: 0

A virtual meeting of the Malden Conservation Commission (“ConCom” or “Commission”) was held via Zoom video call.

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:04 PM. The roll was called and it was determined that a quorum was present.

Approval of Minutes

2. A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes from the last sessions.
3. A voice vote was taken and clearly passed. **RESOLVED** that the minutes from the August 12, 2021 meeting are approved.

RDA - Paradigm Precision 219 Medford St.

4. A motion was made and seconded to open the hearing for the RDA. A voice vote on the motion to open the hearing was taken and the motion clearly passed.
5. Chris Mahoney from Paradigm Precision gave a brief overview of the proposed project.
6. Nelson Miller, the Building Commissioner and Director of Inspectional Services for the City of Malden gave an overview of a new ordinance (12.12.200) that may be applicable to this site.
7. It was determined that this project as proposed does not meet the criteria for this ordinance to apply.

8. Mr. Laskey asked if there was any way they could put a walkway in along the Malden River like the path across the river.
9. Mr. Mahoney replied that there is no plan to put one in.
10. Mr. Slavitt discussed whether or not an RDA is the proper application or if a NOI is applicable.
11. Mr. Mazonson asked Mr. Miller if the City would require the property owner to provide an easement if a walkway for the public was to be put in.
12. Mr. Miller replied that the ordinance doesn't require an easement and that if the city solicitor could give more information.
13. A motion was made and seconded to continue the hearing to the next meeting. A voice vote was taken and clearly passed. **RESOLVED** to continue the hearing to the next meeting.

RDA - Malden River Trash Boom Replacement

14. A motion was made and seconded to open the hearing for the RDA. A voice vote on the motion to open the hearing was taken and the motion clearly passed.
15. Andy Hrycyna and Sushant Bajracharya from the Mystic River Watershed Association gave an overview of the project.
16. The project involves the replacement of the trash boom in the Malden River with a larger, more robust trash boom.
17. John Spinella from PL Management INC gave background and technical information on the trash boom.
18. Mr. Mazonson asked if the device relied on the current or if there was some sort of mechanical feature that helps collect.
19. Mr. Hrycyna replied that it is a passive device and the current is what pushed trash into the boom.
20. Mr. Zmijewski asked if during stormflow conditions there would be any concern or risk of the trash boom becoming dislodged from its anchors.
21. Mr. Spinella replied that the River in this area even after heavy storms that we have had this year, the water is very still and also there is no risk because the blocks that the boom is anchored to are around 600lbs each.
22. Mr. Slavitt asked about the anchor blocks and how/ where they will be placed.
23. Mr. Spinella replied that the blocks will be placed on the bank in flat areas and will have minimal disturbance.
24. Mr. Slavitt asked if the trash boom stays in the water throughout the winter.
25. Mr. Hrycyna replied that since the water in past years did not freeze, the plan is to keep it in the water year round.
26. A motion was made and seconded to close the hearing and open a discussion to issue the RDA. A voice vote was taken and clearly passed.

27. A motion was made and seconded to issue a Negative 2 determination. A voice vote was taken and clearly passed. **RESOLVED** to issue the RDA with a Negative 2 determination.

Malden River Works Informational Presentation

28. A presentation was given for the project known as Malden River Works which is planning to redesign the Malden DPW yard and create a new public park along the bank of the Malden River and to incorporate climate resiliency measures into the DPW yard.

Letter from Friends of the Malden River

29. Mr. Slavitt shared a letter¹ from Karen Buck, President of Friends of the Malden River about erosion problems at the Malden DPW yard.

Complaint from Residents on Delta Terrace

30. Mr. Laskey received some complaints from residents living on Delta Terrace regarding flooding in their backyards and stated that there may be a problem with the floodgates located in Revere. Mr. Laskey wanted to know if there was anyone at the state level that we could reach out to to figure out a solution.

31. Mr. Slavitt replied that he would reach out to a contact at MassDEP.²

Adjournment

32. A motion was made and seconded to adjourn. A voice vote was taken and clearly passed. The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 PM.

¹ See Appendix I for a copy of this letter.

² As a later follow up, MassDEP referred Mr. Slavitt to Mr. Robert Lowell, Deputy Chief, Design & Engineering, Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR). There was a site visit at Delta Terrace by Mr. Lowell with Mr. Laskey in attendance. The appropriate contacts at MassDOT are being engaged in conversation about responsibility and timeline for this issue.



Friends of the Malden River

friendsofthemaldenriver@gmail.com

September 13, 2021

Dear Members of the Conservation Committee,

The Friends of the Malden River thank you for your continual support and diligence towards the health of the Malden River.

Last summer, The Friends of the Malden River contacted the Conservation Committee regarding the erosion occurring at the Malden High School boat ramp behind the Department of Public Works. Stone fill was installed after the Conservation Committee contacted the City of Malden to rectify the situation.

Unfortunately, filling the ditch only exacerbated the problem with continuous erosion and more stone fill running into the Malden River. At this time, there is a peninsula of stone fill encroaching upon the river at the foot of the boat ramp.

The problem needs to be corrected from above the boat ramp where the storm water flood waters flow. In discussion with Rich Whelan of Gentle Giant Rowing Club who have been "tenants" of the boathouse for years, there could be an easy temporary solution. There was a crude shallow runoff ditch that funneled the water into the vegetated patch to the right of the boat ramp (facing the river). This runoff ditch is to the right of the river side chain link gate. In the past, Rich Whelan would maintain the shallow runoff ditch by shoveling out the dirt that would fill the water diversion.

That was sufficient then; maybe, it is not a solution for now due to the recent increase of intense rain storms. But, it may serve a temporary fix before the spring when the stone needs to be moved from the river and returned to the boat ramp. This shallow ditch for runoff is now filled with sediment. This could be dug out so that the storm water is diverted to the right of the boat

ramp into the vegetated area that will absorb the runoff.

Malden River Works will be the ultimate solution for storm water management at the Malden City Yard. Meanwhile we need to come up with an interim solution. The boat ramp is unusable at this point and needs to be repaired for the upcoming spring season of the Malden High School. The City of Malden needs to come up with a sustainable solution and maintenance plan to rectify the problem of erosion from storm water runoff.

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There is another problem with drainage at the Malden Department of Public Works. Photographs document recent flooding of the City Yard.

One city employee noted to Karen Buck at the last storm (Hurricane Ida), "There was 3' of water behind the yard [south side]. The storm drain isn't marked and during floods, an employee has to search for the drain because it is plugged with crap. Then, they unplug it and the water drains".

And where does this crap and storm water drain to? Right into the Malden River. Please consider this as a major problem on City property. We don't know the infrastructure at the yard and can only assume the worst. We ask that the Conservation Commission research this problem so that there is proper maintenance for the Yard catchment basins to curtail this perennial problem of river pollution. We request that this solution be created in synchronicity with the Malden River Works engineering team of Horsley Witten so that we can solve this problem together now for our future Malden River and our future park.

Thank you for your immediate attentions,
Karen Buck, President of the Friends of the Malden River

On behalf of the Friends of the Malden River

Mission of The Friends of Malden River: The Friends of the Malden River seek to promote awareness of and interest in the Malden River, improve its water quality, and increase access for public enjoyment.