



**MINUTES**  
for the  
**City of Fitchburg**  
**Resource Conservation Commission**  
April 21, 2014 Meeting

**RCC and Staff Members Present:** Steve Arnold, Diane Streck, Jan Kucher, Tony Hartmann (7:04 pm)

**Others Present:** Scott Endl, Wade Thompson, and Chris Jimieson (7:54pm)

**Absent:** Samuel Cooke, excused

**Informal Discussion Regarding Resolution R-44-14**

- Scott Endl and Wade Thompson provided an informal presentation regarding Resolution R-44-14.
- Wade explained the Park Alternative Plan limits impervious surface
- Rick elaborated on existing stormwater issues and proposed stormwater recommendations. Rick mentioned some overflow occurs from Traceway Drive onto the existing golf course causing annual maintenance damage to the landscape. Rick explained that the surrounding area drains either to the pond in the golf course or directly to Nine Springs Creek, untreated. Rick said the stormwater projects are currently slated for design in 2015 and construction in 2016. Rick believes this project is the top or the second to the top of best management practices for addressing sediment reduction standards through WDNR.
- The Pines Apartment complex might be interested in implementing some stormwater BMPs to reduce stormwater utility fees and maximize existing public construction.

**1. Call to Order**

- Diane called the meeting to order at 7:04 pm.

**2. Appointment of Timekeeper**

- Tony Hartmann was appointed timekeeper.

*Steve moved to modify the agenda and take up item 5.a. Jan seconded. Motion approved.*

**5.a. Resolution R-44-14 Decision Regarding Use of Nine Springs Golf Course Property**

- Diane asked Rick whether or not the stormwater recommendations would remain the same depending on whether the plan moved forward as a golf course a park alternative. Rick clarified that the stormwater recommendations were the same for both options. Scott and Wade further explained that safety issues arise with the park plan because of the pond, bridges and creek and added the existing pond is consistent with other stormwater facilities in the City.
- RCC members discussed the condition of existing bridges and proposed modifications, including how the bridges currently function during large flood events. Rick explained the bridges should be replaced at some point in the future, regardless of which option is chosen. However, the individual bridge design may be different with each location.

- Steve shared his opinion that the proposed park alternative is not his preference. His explanation is that several of the surrounding sites have been acknowledged for redevelopment. Steve further explained that he is interested in expanding the existing site to a larger planning area which includes several other land uses, including transportation corridors. Tony agreed with Steve that if a larger development site is considered, more planning will be needed.
- Members discussed that leaving the site as a golf course will not cost the City any more money than business as usual.
- Diane mentioned the existing neighborhood park and several grass areas between the apartment buildings as well as Leopold School and the large, underutilized, park behind Leopold School are currently available for children to play. She also mentioned that the golf course has been a good neighbor. Sam Schultz supports community activities and has his staff clean up along Nine Springs Creek.
- *Steve moved that RCC recommend financial planning and stormwater engineering proceed within the regular budget cycle for the stormwater projects recommended by City staff regardless of whether the golf course or park alternative is chosen. Jan seconded. Motion passed.*
- *Tony moved to recommend approval of option B, convert to park. Jan seconded. Motion failed.*
- *Jan moved to recommend approval of option A, keep golf course. Tony seconded. Motion passed.*

### **3. Public Appearances on Non-Agenda Items – none**

### **4. Approval of Minutes from March 17, 2014, RCC Meeting**

- *Steve moved to approve the Minutes from February 17, 2014. Tony seconded. Diane made a few minor suggestions. The Minutes were approved as amended.*

### **5. New Business**

#### **5.b. Begin discussing 2015 RCC Operating Budget**

- Diane mentioned that Kristofer's time is already overbooked and encouraged selection of projects that use his time most effectively and avoid labor-intensive projects that will at best yield small results.
- Diane encouraged members to consider items for the budget as soon as possible so they can be considered and researched before RCC submits its request.
- Steve asked what the costs would be to remove invasive honeysuckle, etc. in Fitchburg's portion of Dunn's Marsh. Rick explained he received a bid in 2013 for \$10,000 to conduct forestry mowing for this area. Rick indicated that Fitchburg staff may be able to work in certain areas during dry or frozen ground conditions. He explained an education process may be needed for the surrounding neighborhood because some residents may prefer the privacy that the honeysuckle and box elder trees provide. Diane suggested RCC encourage Rick to include the invasive shrub/tree removal as a project in either 2014 and/or 2015.

#### **5.c. Stream Sampling Update**

Steve mentioned he sent an email proposing stream sampling dates, including May 7<sup>th</sup>. May 22<sup>nd</sup> is the training date at the site from 8:30am-10. Steve and Tony are prepared to conduct the 7 samplings in 2014 and will clarify with Nancy Sheehan whether the site is a Level II and/or Level III sampling site.

## 6. Unfinished Business

### 6.a. Municipal Construction Guidelines

- Diane explained that City staff had basically one question on RCC's proposed requirements but didn't understand that they, too, should provide input on other requirements. She also explained that RCC is not suggesting Fitchburg pursue LEED certification, but is suggesting the LEED measurement and verification be required.
- Diane explained the goal is to have a final document that acts as a template for future municipal construction and therefore items on the checklist should be marked even though they are already required under other City provisions to be consistent and avoid confusion.
- **Action Items:**
  - **Diane will discuss the certified wood requirement with Samuel and prepare an introduction to the Checklist.**
  - **After Diane has done the above, Kristofer will follow up with staff on LEED checklist items they would like required. Kristofer will follow up particularly about stormwater issues.**

### 6.b. Update on WECC Proposal

- Kristofer explained the WECC Loan Loss Reserve Program was well received by the Senior Center and by the Green Team. He summarized the Senior Center's Energy Task Force Program, which is being presented to Council on 4/22.
- **Action Item: Kristofer will work with the Senior Center regarding the funding requests for the WECC Loan Loss Reserve Program.**

### 6.c. Continue Planning Summer Green Thursday Event

- Discussion occurred regarding a possible celebration of 25 years since Fitchburg started its curbside recycling program. Diane told members that Fitchburg is a leader in recycling because it was the first to start a recycling program, not because it recycles the most items or is leading the way with recycling.
- July 17<sup>th</sup> or July 24<sup>th</sup> would be potential dates for bat house workshop. Advanced sign up and payment would be required to ensure that sufficient materials are ready. Steve pointed out that it is critical to have battery-operated screwdrivers for every participant in order to finish on time.
- Diane encouraged including sponsorship options so that no one is prevented from participating because of cost.
- Home Depot/Tri-North may be potential partners and donate either materials or labor or sponsor an attendee.
- Diane mentioned Sharon Hanrahan volunteered her husband to cut the materials ahead of the event.
- Educating the public on the benefits of bats is important as well as proper siting once the bat house is made.
- **Action Items:**
  - **Kristofer will get contact information for the DNR bat specialist as well as info on Monona's 2013 bat house building workshop (e.g. Does Monona have the pattern and/or any materials? How many slots did they have open?, etc.).**
  - **Kristofer will check on the DNR bat specialist's availability and reserve the McKee Farms Park Shelter.**

## 7. Council Update

- Diane provided an update on RCC appointments.
- Diane asked for a status update on the proposed changes to Chapter 30 and 40. Steve said the ordinance passed without RCC amendments.
- Members discussed RCC's stormwater oversight role.
- Diane indicated she plans to meet with Paul Woodard to discuss RCC's stormwater oversight role.

## **8. Staff Update**

### **8.a. Solid Waste Update**

- Rick explained that curbside collection of plastic bags was not included as a recycling requirement in the RFP because it could limit bids. Members strongly recommended including plastic bag as a required curbside recycling item because residents now expect that service and providing it seems to have reduced plastic bag litter.
- Jan suggested that cost per ton of refuse be requested so that when the City moves to source-separated organics it will be easier to determine cost savings.
- Diane suggested added shredded paper to the list because that is currently accepted. Steve recommended included it as an option item (section 6.5) because it is not as important as plastic bags.
- Diane asked why refuse tags were only sold in quantities of 5 tags per sheet. Rick explained that the Clerk's Department has a procedure for only selling whole sheets, but other vendors (e.g. Hometown Pharmacy and Walgreens) could sell them individually if they preferred. Rick indicated that no one other than Diane has brought this to him as a concern.
- Diane suggested that the RFP include a request for information from contractors on the vehicles they would be using in Fitchburg which use alternative fuels.
- Diane recapped the process:
  - RCC will hold a public hearing on the Refuse & Recycling service during its May meeting.
  - Based on input from the public hearing and the survey Rick published, further changes may be made to the RFP.
  - The RFP is scheduled to go out June 16th with responses due by July 9<sup>th</sup>.
- **Action Item: Rick will work to include suggested revisions into a revised RFP.**

### **8.b. Stormwater Update**

### **8.c. Sustainability Update**

## **9. Announcements**

### **9.a. Next Meeting – May 19, 2014 at 6:30pm in the Meeting Room**

## **10. Adjournment – 9:15pm**