



# City of Cambridge Conservation Commission

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## Public Meeting – Monday, August 12, 2024, at 7:00 PM Zoom MEETING MINUTES

The following meeting minutes were taken by Lena Frappier and are respectfully submitted.

Present Commission Members: Jennifer Letourneau, Director; John Leo; David Lyons, Chair; Elyse Magnotto-Cleary, Vice Chair; Erum Sattar

Attendees: Lena Frappier, DPW; Kara Falise, DPW; Erika Frazier, Fort Point Associates

David Lyons opened the meeting.

### **7:02 – Request for Certificate of Compliance DEP File #123-124 Cambridge Boat Club, 2 Gerry’s Landing Road**

Erika Frazier, a Project Planner for Fort Point Associates representing the Cambridge Boat Club, gave a background of the original order of conditions concerning the addition built approximately 27 years ago. She stated that a certificate of compliance was never filed following the completion of the work and this submittal is to settle the compliance with the Wetland Protection Act.

Jennifer Letourneau stated that she has visited the site and has been working with Erika. She specified that their work together included a formal request for information through the Law Department and referencing the physical file and site plans to confirm the work on site with the plans. Jennifer said this submittal is complete and final and meets the requirements for certificate of compliance.

David Lyons thanked Jennifer and stated there were no public attendees.

Erum Sattar enquired how they realized that this was not filed.

Erika responded that they are in the middle of obtaining for a Chapter 91 license for the existing structure, so even though there's nothing being proposed, it's just to put the existing structure into compliance with Chapter 91.

David posed two questions including public access between the boathouse and waterfront across the boathouse property and access to the Cambridge Rindge and Latin students.

Erika stated that Cambridge Rindge and Latin rows there currently and there are also a couple different programs that allow access to the waterfront.

David stated that if you're running or walking along that way you must go around the boathouse towards the parkway and Gerry's Landing. He also said with the approval of the Memorial Drive project there will be some changes there.

Jennifer stated that it's not signed, and the parking lot is a DCR parking lot open to the public. She said with the previous site visits done with Kara and the DCR, the club was welcoming and even though there are membership barriers with the club, access is always granted to the lot. Jennifer also confirmed that Cambridge Rindge and Latin does row out of this location.

David said that information is good to know about the public access and also questioned if the location of the path could go in front of the boathouse along the waterfront.

Erika stated that is part of the Chapter 91 jurisdictional conversations and there will be more to come on that.

**7:10 – Public Comment Closed**

4 – In Favor, 1– Absent, 2 – Vacant

Erum thanked Jennifer for taking the time to do the confirmations.

Jennifer stated there have been a few needs for site visits in this area and it is nice to see things come together.

David noted with the recent Olympics and the use of their urban river, we should also be making more use of the river and see more recreational opportunities.

**7:12 – The commission unanimously approved the certificate of compliance.**

4 – In Favor, 1– Absent, 2 – Vacant

**7:13 - Request for Certificate of Compliance**

**DEP File #123-315**

Boston University Boat Club

Erika also represented the Boston University Boat Club and stated the boathouse had requested an order of conditions to dredge underneath their dock and put in a new pile on their finger dock. They had done so in compliance with that order of conditions with one discrepancy that when ordering the floating dock. It was only available in an 8-foot increment when originally approved as 7 feet. She said the project site has been cleaned up, all erosion control measures have been removed and they are requesting a certificate of compliance.

Jennifer stated that she worked with Erika during the construction process and with the contractor. She listed that there were double curtains around the entire area, the removal of cubic yards went easily, there were no containment issues or sediment issues as a result of the dredging and the site has been restored. Jennifer described the Dewolfe Boathouse is the first boathouse going east as the BU bridge meets the Cambridge shoreline. Due to the train trestle and grades the access to this area is only on the Memorial Drive side. She stated the DCR Memorial Drive Phase I project added a secondary path that goes along the river providing access to the shoreline in really in the only feasible area to do so.

David thanked Jennifer for that explanation and stated that it still seems like an underutilized area. He also reported that there were still no members of the public present.

Elysse Magnotto-Cleary questioned if the certificate of compliance needs to note the alteration of the 7-foot dock.

Jennifer responded that the change was only with the floating dock system and did not require an additional pile whereas there is no deviation to the permitted protected wetland resource area. She also added how interesting it is to get inside both of these boathouses as the Cambridge Boat Club is turn of the century and the oldest boat house on the Charles River with oak beams and trusses while the BU DeWolfe Boat Club is very modern.

**7:19 – Public Comment Closed**

4 – In Favor, 1– Absent, 2 – Vacant

**7:20 – The commission unanimously approved the certificate of compliance.**

4 – In Favor, 1– Absent, 2 – Vacant

**7:20 – Administrative Topics**

Meeting Minutes Approved– June 17, 2024

4 – In Favor, 1– Absent, 2 – Vacant

Jennifer stated that there are four applicants for the commission that are hopeful to be onboarded for the September meeting for two full members and an associate member to help with future quorums. She included that current focuses include the Fresh Pond Reservation and inspections along the Charles River as well as the Alewife Reservation. She is circling back this month with the MBTA concerning a restoration plan for the wetland resource area that was cleaned up from the unhoued. Jennifer also informed the commission that the IQHQ compensatory flood storage has been created on the west side of Jerry's Pond. There is no schedule, but they are moving forward with completing their wetlands permit at the balance of the site as well specific to disturbance and mitigation for wetlands resource areas. Jennifer stated there have been residents that are continuing to be very concerned, and we've had dialogue with them, and we'll continue to make sure that we have a fully open, transparent public process as we move forward with the MBTA. She also said she would like to have an open dialogue where they know when to come in for permits to streamline it so things are done efficiently without issues going forward.

Kara Falise noted that Alewife is up for redevelopment and the MBTA has put out an RFP so it will be interesting to watch.

Elysse had a final question of who owns the land by the BU Bridge that goes under the railroad tracks.

Jennifer stated that land is owned by DCR. She also reminded the commission that the next meeting is scheduled September 16<sup>th</sup>, and the MACC Fall Conference is coming up Saturday October 19<sup>th</sup> as she is the chair and attending meetings every Wednesday at 8:00 am.

David stated that he was going by the IQHQ site at Jerry's Pond and that the building is coming along but questioned if there is restoration work along the edge of the site as it used to be heavily vegetated but is clear currently.

Jennifer stated there is a tremendous number of trees to be planted in the area but could not recall the caliber inches. She also mentioned in the preliminary stage the MBTA is looking to put in a secondary access through the IQHQ property with the red line work and significant busing. They are working together to get their easement, notice of intent, wetlands impacts, restoration, and duration of time.

**7:31 – Meeting Adjourned**

4 – In Favor, 1 – Absent, 2 – Vacant