

Old Colony Planning Council

Agenda

Please note: New meeting time 6:00 PM

Agenda for Meeting No. 551
October 31, 2018

Old Colony Planning Council
70 School Street, Brockton, MA 02301

The listings of matters are those reasonably anticipated by the Chair, which may be discussed at the meeting. Not all items listed may in fact be discussed and other items not listed may be brought up for discussion to the extent permitted by law.

1. Call to Order, **6:00 PM**
2. Roll Call of Members
3. Minutes of September 26, 2018 Meeting
4. Financial Report for September 2018
5. Regional Clearinghouse Reviews

Mr. Frank P. Staffier, President
Mr. Fred Gilmetti, Secretary
Mr. Fred Gilmetti, Secretary
Ms. Christine Joy, Treasurer

Industrial Revenue Bonds

None

Environmental Notifications

See Attachments

6. Old Business

None

7. New Business

- A. **Presentation – Zoning Reform Overview.** During the past year, the Massachusetts Smart Growth Alliance (MSGGA) has been urging the Massachusetts House of Representatives and Senate to pass a “middle ground” zoning reform package. The passage of a zoning reform bill this year would have been an important milestone in the effort to modernize our zoning, planning and subdivision laws. MA Smart Growth Alliance will update the Council on the status of Zoning Reform, and discuss the next steps. *Larry Field, Deputy Director, MA Smart Growth Alliance.*
- B. Selection of one community with population less than 14,000 to serve as a Signatory Member on the Old Colony Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO). Pat Ciaramella, Executive Director.

8. Community Concerns

9. Other Business

10. Visitors Comments/Questions

11. Adjournment

*FUTURE MEETINGS: November 28, 2018, January 30, 2019 and February 27, 2019
(Executive Committee Meeting would be convened in the absence of a Council quorum)*

Attachments

Industrial Revenue Bonds (Council Action)

None

Environmental Notifications (Information only)

i. EEA # 15916 - Foothills Preserve and West Beaver Dam Brook Ecological Restoration (Plymouth) ENF - The Foothills Preserve and West Beaver Dam Brook Restoration builds on lessons learned from the three other projects in the region that have restored retired cranberry bogs to diverse wetlands and streams (Eel River and Tidmarsh Farms in Plymouth, and Coonamessett River in Falmouth). Many of the same design and construction elements completed on these other similar projects are proposed for this project including removal of valley-spanning berms, removal of two obsolete small dams, reconstruction of a new sinuous stream channel, installation of large wood for channel construction and aquatic and terrestrial habitat, development of microtopography throughout the wetland surfaces, and planting of native trees and shrubs. The project is being led by the Town of Plymouth and the MA Division of Ecological Restoration (DER).

Small Dam Removals

The work will include the removal of the two small earthen berms that comprise the upper and lower dams, including the steel culvert within the lower dam. The removal of these structures will open restored stream connectivity and open up approximately one linear mile of river habitat for migratory species. The earthen berms will be entirely removed to restore the full width of the floodplain.

River Channel Restoration

To address the degraded and simplified existing agricultural ditching now present within the Foothills Preserve, a new restored stream channel will be reconstructed. The proposed channel meander pattern within the Foothills Preserve is based on low gradient peatland channels observed elsewhere in the region, including Beaver Dam Brook through Tidmarsh Farms. The design and construction methods follow standard practice for river restoration and reflect methods used at other retired cranberry farm sites in Massachusetts. The design of the stream for much of Tidmarsh West includes a slightly irregular meander pattern that begins downstream of cells A, B, and C, which do not have adequate base flow to support a defined channel. The existing main ditch in Cell C will be plugged with wood and earth to deconstruct the channel and force the water closer to the wetland surface. The slightly irregular meandering stream will begin just south of Cell C and meander through Cells D, E, and F. The new channels will have physical complexity (e.g. side arms, backwater areas), sinuosity, and large wood, and will be reconnected to the adjacent restored floodplain. Beyond immediately improving habitat conditions on site, this work will increase hydrologic retention and help restore wetland conditions across the site.

Wetland Restoration

The bog/ wetland restoration work in the Foothills Preserve will include removal of the sand layer in select areas to create open water features of various sizes, roughening of the former farm surface (microtopography), addition of large wood for habitat features, and wetland vegetation planting. In addition, the interior and perimeter ditches will be filled to remove the features of the farm that actively worked to drain the wetlands for farming. Throughout the restored wetland surface, microtopographic features will be constructed to provide terrestrial and aquatic habitat. This microtopography will include mounds and low areas, both approximately one foot plus/ minus the elevation of the bog surface.