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**Meeting Minutes of the  
Town of Belmont, Board of Cemetery Commissioners**

**April 12, 2018 6: 15 PM**

Belmont Town Hall – 455 Concord Avenue

Room 1 – Ground Floor, then to Board of Selectmen Room for Light Board

Meeting at 7: 15 PM

Members Present: Ellen O'Brien Cushman (chair) and Alexander Corbett III

Members Absent: William Chemelli

Others Present: Belmont Day School representatives – Kelly Cardoza, Corrado Paramithiotti (CP) and Glenn Ryan (Shawmut Construction). Tim Duncan joined the meeting a 6:48 PM.

The meeting convened at 6:15 PM in advance of the Belmont Municipal Light Board, at which a 7: 15 PM agenda item will deal with the Day School light pole request and the Board's objection to its placement adjacent to the Highland Meadow Cemetery walls at the corner with the Day School new driveway/road. The Board will remain convened and attend the Light Board meeting.

- Ellen and Alex informed the Day School representatives that it is our intent to continue to oppose the placement of the light pole adjacent to the Highland Meadow Cemetery wall at the corner. Main reasons: aesthetic impact and wires that would be required to run overhead across Concord Avenue when the only pole on the cemetery side of Concord was moved to the other side in 2005. We find the sudden appearance of the light pole where one was never shown before to be unacceptable.
- CP informed the Board that the Day School will never pay for underground conduit installation because they feel they are being singled out.
- Alex brought up the issue of the two enormous Shawmut signs that violated the Town's new temporary sign By-Law. The Day School representatives said the signs were just installed for the topping off celebration and were removed immediately thereafter.
- CP from the Day School provided an update of the construction progress:
  - 20% of headhouse is completed, working on roofing
  - Fieldhouse - 15-20% of Steel is up – expect it to be completely erected by April 30<sup>th</sup>
  - Full closure of the buildings by May 30<sup>th</sup> anticipated
  - Drainage is already in place on site and working
  - Water connection is in place, sewer line in progress
  - Driveway is operation and being utilized one way now for all construction vehicles
  - Dedicated parking for all construction vehicles is working well
  - Planning to close Concord Avenue April school vacation (next week), at this point work expected Monday 9-5 (Patriots' Day holiday), Tuesday-Friday 7 AM – 3: 30 PM
  - Their construction webpage shows 2 to 5 weeks ahead

- Tim asked the Day School representatives why they think it's okay to suddenly install the light pole without ever revealing it before and why they did not even inform the neighbors that Concord Avenue would be closed starting next Monday.

The Board then recessed at 6:55 PM to attend the Municipal Light Board Meeting upstairs in the Selectmen's meeting room for 7:15 PM agenda item.

The Board reconvened at 7:10 PM for the Municipal Light Board Meeting agenda item about the light pole issue.

- Many residents and neighbors spoke; several were outraged that Concord Avenue would be closed for Day School storm drain work next week without adequate notification to neighbors
- Many neighbors spoke to object to the sudden placement of the light pole at the driveway corner
- Jeffrey Wheeler, Senior Planner for Belmont showed the Board the approved Site Plan for the Day School project on which a notation of underground electricity is noted. There is no notation of an above ground pole or wires across Concord Avenue.
- The Day School attorney, Michael Giamo stated emphatically that the Day School applied for their permit and showed the pole and will be installing a pole – they will not pay for this “exception” requiring underground conduit.
- The members of the Light Board further questioned the Day School to explain how plans were even submitted to Community Development and Belmont Light that conflict with the approved Site Plan drawing and conditions on this issue.
- Ellen Cushman told the Light Board that the Cemetery Commission is in session and that this was a very hard fought battle at the Planning Board last summer over many months and meetings to derive the final plan and the landscape plan in particular that shows all hardscape items, including the wall that belongs to Belmont's Highland Meadow Cemetery and Mr. Leavitt's fence – how are we to believe that a light pole would not be shown in that very location? Also, couldn't the conduit be installed at the same time that they are digging the trench for the storm drain in the same location?
- Alex Corbett asked the Day School to just “do the right thing, install the conduit, not the pole... do the right thing”.
- Glenn from Shawmut said that if an electrical conduit trench would be dug, it could not occur at the same time as the storm drain work next week – it would require another 7 days to close Concord Avenue to install it.
- The Municipal Light Board remarked that the Light Board doesn't have jurisdiction over the road for the closing of Concord Avenue. In addition, the decision about whether the plan and the placement of the light pole conflicts with the Site Plan Approval is really up to our Building inspector/zoning enforcement officer, Glenn Clancy who is on vacation just now.
- The Board of Selectmen then convened on the issue of closing the road. The neighbors are confused whether they would have access to their homes and unhappy because no “push” message had been sent to them regarding the closure. The Day School responded that neighbors could visit their web site and see the updates. The Board suggested that a push message would be effective, the Town uses it often. After many comments and much discussion, the decision was made to allow the Day School street

opening for the storm drain to proceed next week and Glenn Clancy would be asked to determine if the original Site Plan Approval by the Planning Board showed underground electrical conduit.

Alex noted that we had not held our organizational meeting after the April 3<sup>rd</sup> election and moved that Ellen continue to serve as Chairman, he as vice chair. Unanimously voted.

Board adjourned approximately 9 PM  
Respectfully Submitted,

Ellen O'Brien Cushman  
Chair