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**MEETING MINUTES**  
**Belmont Conservation Commission**  
**October 24, 2017 Meeting Minutes**  
**Room 2 Town Hall**  
**7:00 pm**

**Attendees:**

Members: Jim Roth (Chairman); Miriam Weil; Jeff North; Peg Velie; Chris Morris; Dan Nolan (Associate)

Others: Mary Trudeau; Kevin McHugh; Joan Teebagy; Jason Berger

**7:05 Review of Minutes of October 3, 2017 meeting**

The Commission reviewed the minutes of the October 3, 2017 meeting.

**Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the vote was to approve the minutes as amended.**

**7:10 REOPEN Conservation Commission Meeting of August 1, 2017**

Due to a public meeting notification issue with the posting of the August 1, 2017 meeting, the Conservation Commission reconvened for the agenda items discussed at the August 1, 2017 meeting. After opening the meeting, the Chair read the legal ads for the hearings held on the night of August 1, 2017, and asked for public comment or questions. Hearing none, upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Commission closed the agenda of the August 1, 2017 meeting.

**7:15 Invasives Control Grant Application for Rock Meadow**

The Commission discussed the filing of a grant application with the Judith K Record fund. As noted by Roger Wrubel, at the October 3, 2017 meeting of the Commission, the Fund is entertaining grant requests, and has an interest in projects such as the control and management of non native or invasive plants. The Commission discussed the need for a master plan for use of Rock Meadow, and noted that an invasive plant species control plan could be a part of such a plan. The Commission discussed the wide variety of users at Rock Meadow, and that the Commission could formulate a plan that accommodates and prioritizes various programs and share holders, and offers long term guidance for meadow management.

Mary Trudeau agreed to research consultants, or templates, to assist in the preparation of a Master Plan for Rock Meadow.

**7:30 Beaver Brook Reservation Sprinkler Park Notice of Intent filing (DEP File Number 106-130)**

Kevin McHugh of Coneco represented the DCR in the continued public hearing for a Notice of Intent filed for the rehabilitation and reconstruction of the existing Spray Deck/Sprinkler Park at Beaver Brook Reservation, off Trapelo Road. Kevin presented a revised Notice of Intent application noting that the project is located within one hundred feet of the Beaver Brook, a perennial waterway. Other materials submitted to the Commission included minor plan revisions concerning the rehabilitation of the existing drainage outfall into Beaver Brook.

As requested by the Commission, Kevin also submitted additional information certifying that the discharge is regulated under the DCR's NPDES permit, currently in place.

As discussed at the first public hearing on October 3, the Commission reviewed the proposed walking path at the perimeter of the park. This is new impervious cover, and sits above a steep slope leading to the Beaver Brook. Mr. McHugh reported on recent discussions with the DEP, noting that while portions of the project clearly fell under the redevelopment regulations for Riverfront Area resource area, this particular facet of the project could be considered new construction. Mr. McHugh noted that due to the vast acreage of Riverfront Area resource area within the Beaver Brook Reservation, this additional impervious cover would consist of far less than the 10 percent threshold established for new construction.

Mr. McHugh also noted that the plan revisions submitted to the Commission proposed the pitching of the path towards the interior of the park to preserve the stability of the slope above the Brook. The Commission reviewed the proposed stabilization measures to be taken at the discharge point below the walkway (and above the brook). Riprap slope protection and the use of geotextile fabric are proposed to add stability to the discharge point.

The Commission had also asked that the proposed sprinkler system discharges to Beaver brook be calculated to allow the Commission to better evaluate the proposed impacts. Mr. McHugh submitted information that estimated water consumption in the proposed condition.

The Commission discussed the appropriate special conditions to be included in the Order of Conditions to the project. Conditions to be added included the use of 12 inch straw wattles or filter tubes to be installed at the toe of slope, above Beaver Brook. A second condition requires the submission of a revised detail for the stabilization of the outfall, to include additional geotextile product, and the creation of an 8 foot long "dissipater" below the drain outlet. The Commission also requested that the new path only be used for maintenance vehicles, or pedestrians and bikers, and that bollards should be set to prevent access from private vehicles.

Based on a motion by Christopher Morris, and seconded by Margaret Velie, the Commission

**Voted** to close the public hearing and issue an Order of Conditions with the above noted special conditions added to the traditional special conditions used by the Commission.

The Commission signed the Order of Conditions drafted by the agent, and noted that it would be issued the following morning and available to the applicant.

#### **8:30 Clay Pit Pond: Intergenerational Walking Path**

Jason Berger, a member of the boys Belmont High School Cross Country Running team attended the meeting. Jason discussed the importance of keeping the path circumference at 1000 meters, noting that the course is well used by local runners who use the course for training. Jason noted that the Cross Country running team supports the use of a compressable, permeable surface for the Intergenerational Walking Path. He note that a six foot width is acceptable to the runners, and may be preferable to the eight foot width alternative. Jason suggested that grass be planted along the path, noting that more significant planting along the path would be a hazard.

The Cross Country team has also expressed interest in a Kiosk devoted to running and team information. A course map, notices of events, and lost dogs could also be included in the Kiosk. Mary Trudeau noted that the Commission has a standardized design for the kiosks at the park, and that the construction of a kiosk would be an appropriate scout or community service project.

Mr. Berger also asked that the town web site be update with more recent plans, noting that the current plan available on line is dated 2015. The Commission agreed to update the website as materials become available.

#### **8:45 Sheep at Rock Meadow Summer of 2017 Update**

Joan Teebagy submitted a written report, dated 10-24-2017, in which she detailed the grazing activities that occurred at Rock Meadow this past season. Joan noted that she uses a rotational grazing strategy, and that sheep are locked into a pen/shelter every evening.

Joan reported that the rainfall patterns this summer were conducive to growing good grass, and that there was plenty of food for the sheep throughout the summer. She note a few issues with trespassers, but no harm to sheep.

While Joan had contemplated adding goats to the grazing community, she noted that coyotes had killed two goats in Belmont this summer, and she was afraid to leave goats in the meadow without constant vigilance. Joan noted that the grazing area generated manure for the gardeners, and that it was a highly sought after commodity.

Community engagement continued on both a formal and informal basis. A Facebook page was frequented by a variety of visitors, and a video titled "Sheep in the Meadow" was posted and frequently viewed. Joan felt that community acceptance of the project has grown, and that visiting the sheep has become a local attraction for meadow users.

Joan noted that improvements to the grazing program could include additional security, which would allow for goats to be added to the flock.

#### **Adjourn**

Upon a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:00 pm; as well as a second to the motion, the meeting was adjourned at 9:00 pm.