

MEETING MINUTES
Belmont Conservation Commission
October 11, 2022 Meeting Minutes
Virtual Meeting
7:00 pm

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TOWN CLERK
BELMONT, MA

DATE: December 14, 2022
TIME: 9:03 AM

Attendees:

Members: Jim Roth (Chairperson) Miriam Weil; Margaret Velie; Chris Morris; Mark Smith; Prassede Vella

Others: Mary Trudeau; Bruce Ringwall; Dr. Moskowitz; Hailey Page; Nigel Keurkunan; Pam Andrews; Harout Kelian; Ara Barsoumian; Justin Gould

Call to Order:

The Meeting was Called to Order at 7:06 pm by Jim Roth

Discussion: CPA Preliminary Application Conservation Land Fund

Mary Trudeau noted that she had submitted, on behalf of the Commission, a preliminary application to the CPA Committee for the funding of an account to facilitate opportunities to purchase open space or conservation land in Belmont.

Notice of Intent Public Hearing: Claflin Street Culvert (106-156)

Hailey Page, of Weston and Sampson, presented a proposal for improvements to an existing drainage culvert, located off of Claflin Street. The stream flow runs to Little Pond via a series of drain lines. The undersized culvert grate, and upgradient stone lined swale, have been a long term concern for the DPW, and the current deficiencies have caused flooding issues for adjacent properties. The proposed work will enlarge, and improve, the existing grate as well as repoint the stone banks of the stream. While there is no natural stream bank associated with the resource areas in this location, the proposed work will alter 350 sf of Land Under Waterway Resource Area, and 188 linear feet of Bank. Work is proposed within a landscaped area, within the existing drainage easement owned by the Town.

No changes are proposed to the bottom of the channel, and all removal of debris will be by hand. The work will likely require bypass pumping to create a dry work area. Sand bags will be used to contain flows upgradient of the proposed work, and pumps will be used to pass the water through the work areas. No concrete will be washed into the stream.

Based on a motion duly made and seconded, the Commission

VOTED to approve the project, as proposed, with the standard Belmont Conditions.

Request for Determination of Applicability: 121 Oliver Road, Belmont, MA

The application included the demolition of substantial portions of an existing home, and reconstruction. The applicant is proposing to leave the garage intact, to address a zoning setback issue. Work will require activity, and alteration within a Bordering Land Subject to Flooding resource area, as well as within fifty feet of a Bordering Vegetated Wetland associated with Little Pond. The Commission asked for verification of the flood plain delineation, noting it did not appear to follow a specified contour. The applicant noted that no Operations and Maintenance Plan had been submitted for the storm water management system.

The Commission noted that this level of activity, and the requested alteration of Land Subject to Flooding, should be made through a Notice of Intent filing.

Based on a motion duly made and seconded, the Commission

VOTED to issue a Positive Determination of Applicability (1 and 3) requiring the filing of a Notice of Intent for the work proposed at 121 Oliver Road.

Notice of Intent: 43 Brookside Avenue

Bruce Ringwall of GPR, Inc., presented a landscaping proposal for jurisdictional work at 43 Brookside Avenue. The work proposed construction of boulder walls, and planting areas, as well as the revegetation of a portion of the 0-25 foot jurisdictional buffer zone. Bruce noted that the intent of the boulder placement was to soften the existing slope; eliminate lawn areas; and provide locations for the installation of native plants. A boulder bridge was also proposed, to span a low spot in the property.

Bruce noted that the landscaping plan was designed by a firm, Roots and Rocks, specializing in boulder naturalized landscaping. Examples of other projects were shown on the Zoom screen. The Commission noted that they had difficulty visualizing the proposed work, and asked for a site visit prior to the next meeting.

Based on a request by the applicant, the Commission agreed to continue the public hearing to the November meeting of the Commission. A site visit by the Commission will occur prior to that meeting.

Based on a motion duly made and seconded, the Commission

VOTED to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 pm