

MEETING MINUTES
Belmont Conservation Commission
March 14, 2022 Meeting Minutes
Virtual Meeting
7:00 pm

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BELMONT, MA

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

Attendees:

Members: Jim Roth (Chairman); Jeff North (Vice Chairman); Dan Nolan; Prassede Vella; Miriam Weil

Others: Tom Schutz; Vince Stanton; Frank O'Connor

Call to Order:

The Meeting was Called to Order at 7:14 pm by Chairman Jim Roth.

Review of Minutes: The Commission reviewed the minutes of the February 1, 2022 meeting. Based on a motion duly made and seconded, the Commission

VOTED to approve the minutes of the February 1, 2022 meeting

The motion was unanimous to approve the minutes.

Discussion: Benches at Clay Pit Pond

Mary Trudeau reported that she has received interest in purchasing a memorial bench, at Clay Pit Pond, from a local resident. She noted that while many of the benches called for in the Master Plan have been installed on the Concord Avenue side of the park, there may be additional opportunities for benches. The Commission noted that benches for the school side of the park will offer opportunities, as well.

Discussion: Rock Meadow and the Judith K Record Endowment

The Commission discussed the opportunity raised by Roger Wrubel and the Judy K Record fund, with respect to the creation of an endowment for the future upkeep of Rock Meadow. Dan Nolan reminded the Commission of the extensive research done by Mark Smith concerning the ownership and existing protections afforded Rock Meadow. The Commission agreed that Mark Smith should be invited to the June meeting of the Conservation Commission to review the materials that have been gathered by Mark and Dan. This review will allow Commission members the opportunity to better evaluate the opportunities and constraints of a deed restriction and the development of an endowment fund.

Discussion: Engineering Proposal for Rock Meadow Parking Lot

Mary Trudeau reported that she has asked one of the Town's consultants, VHB Associates, to prepare a cost proposal for the development of construction level plans for a future parking lot at Rock Meadow. The Commission noted that this will better allow the Commission to pursue grants and funding for parking lot improvements. Jeff North reminded the Commission members that a portion of the existing parking lot straddles the LMC property, and that any discussions relating to the development of additional and improved parking and storm water management will likely need to include the Land Management Committee.

Public Meeting for Notice of Intent Application: 49 Robinwood Road (106-151)

Tom Schutz, of Goddard Consulting, represented the homeowner in the filing of a Notice of Intent application for construction of an addition to an existing dwelling, located within the Riverfront Area, associated with the Clematis Brook, and jurisdictional buffer zones to Bordering Vegetated Wetlands. Mr. Shutz recapped the recent site visit between the Commission and Goddard Consulting, noting that the field visit had allowed for visualization of the revegetation of Riverfront Areas. Mary Trudeau questioned the continued failure of the landscaping plan to propose mitigation planting within the most sensitive portions of the Riverfront Area, ie closest to the Bank, noting that proximity to the Bank determines compliance with the performance standards. Ms Trudeau, and members of the Commission stressed that the restoration should be in the most sensitive locations, and ideally on the property owned by the applicant. The Commission noted that on site mitigation was possible and meaningful in this instance.

Commission members also commented that existing vegetation is located within some of the proposed restoration areas. It was stressed to Mr. Shutz that the Commission has a long term policy of requiring restoration of the 0-25 foot buffer zone as part of any Notice of Intent filings reviewed by the Commission. The Commission asked that the applicant reconsider the configuration of the restoration area, with the intent of providing mitigation for the most sensitive locations. Mr. Shutz noted that the plants could be laid out in the field and adjusted to meet site conditions.

In response to the Commission's concerns with stormwater management, Mr. Shutz noted that the scope of work is being revised to include a dry well, for stormwater management. He also noted that the existing shed is being removed from the site, and that native planting will occur within the footprint of the shed.

Mary Trudeau noted that a signed, updated Notice of Intent would be required to officially sanction work on land of others. Tom noted that he has continued to pursue the requisite signatures, and expected to have them in hand, soon.

Mr Schutz noted that the DEP has issued a file number for the project, and that he will be requesting a continuance of the public hearing to the next meeting of the Belmont Conservation Commission.

Based on a motion duly made and seconded, the Commission

VOTED to continue the Public Hearing of the Notice of Intent Application for 49 Robinwood Road until the next meeting of the Commission.

Additional Discussions:

Vince Stanton, a local resident, revisited the discussion concerning the development of an endowment for Rock Meadow upkeep. He noted that the Belmont Land Trust, or perhaps the Trustees of Reservations, could hold a deed restriction for Rock Meadow, if required by the terms of the Judy K Record funding.

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Commission

VOTED to adjourn the meeting at approximately 8:45 pm