

DATE: February 1, 2023  
TIME: 8:29 AM

**MEETING MINUTES  
Belmont Conservation Commission  
December 6, 2023  
Virtual Meeting  
7:00 pm**

**Attendees:**

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

Others: Mary Trudeau; Bruce Ringwall; Dr. Arthur Moskowitz; Nigel Keurkunan; Harout Kelian; Ara Barsoumian; Brian Iler; Jeffrey Drucker; Joseph Pines; Matt Schwartz; Steven Parnagian; Jamy Buchanan; Marc Alancar; Kanayo Igo; Daniel Titus; Kelly Cardoza; Jeannette Mooney; Susan Lewis

**Call to Order:**

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

**Approval of Minutes from July, August, September and October 2022 Meetings:**

Based on a motion duly made and seconded, the Commission

**VOTED** to approve the July 26, 2022 Minutes

Based on a motion duly made and seconded, the Commission

**VOTED** to approve the August 22, 2022 Minutes

Based on a motion duly made and seconded, the Commission

**VOTED** to approve the September 13, 2022 Minutes (as amended)

Based on a motion duly made and seconded, the Commission

**VOTED** to approve the October 11, 2022 Minutes (as amended)

**Discussion: Rules at Rock Meadow**

Mary Trudeau noted that the animal control officer in Belmont has suggested that the Commission impose a two dog per walker rule at Rock Meadow to discourage professional dogwalkers who bring multiple, unleashed dogs to Rock Meadow. The Commission agreed to

review the current rules in place for users of Rock Meadow at the next meeting of the Commission.

**Discussion: Daniel Titus and Fishing Line Issues at Clay Pit Pond**

Daniel Titus, a student at Belmont High School, reported two incidents involving conflicts between birds and remnants of fishing line in the areas adjacent to Clay Pit Pond. Daniel noted that he is a daily visitor to the Pond, and has observed a cormorant and a Cooper's Hawk ensnared in fishing line. Daniel noted that removal of the fishing line strung on various branches would be a suitable project for a Service Day or work project. He noted that while there are some obvious entanglements on branches, clean up of overhanging branches might require canoe access. The Commission agreed to consider this type of service project at upcoming Town or other work days.

**Notice of Intent: 121 Oliver Road, Belmont, MA**

The application included the demolition of substantial portions of an existing home, and reconstruction of a new single family home. 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.

Discussions included the need to address the MassDEP comments requiring compensation for work within Bordering Land Subject to Flooding resource areas. While the intrusions appear minimal, the applicant could not quantify the volume of flood plain displacement without conduction additional field measurements. The applicant noted that all work within the BLSF resource area would be done with hand tools, and that there would be no intrusion from heavy equipment within the resource area.

The Commission also requested additional information on the means and methods to be employed during the rehabilitation of the existing foundation. Lala Associates agreed to provide this information. The Commission also questioned the design of the replacement deck, concerned that it may not be up to code if replaced in kind. The Commission requested information on the piles and footings currently supporting the deck.

Christopher Morris noted that he had not had the opportunity to review the revised storm water management system, and asked for time to review and comment. The Commission asked questions about soils exploration and test pit data done at this site, noting that no field work appeared to have been done by the engineer. The Commission also requested an Operations and Maintenance plan for the operation of the proposed storm water management system.

Based on a motion duly made and seconded, the Commission

**VOTED**           continue the public hearing for the Notice of Intent filing for 121 Oliver Road.

**Notice of Intent: 43 Brookside Avenue**

Bruce Ringwall of GPR, Inc., reviewed 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. Mr Ringwall noted that several representatives of the Commission had inspected the site, since the last meeting.

Discussion included the need to compact paths at the end of the work day, to temporarily stabilize work areas. The contractor noted that the boulders would be arranged in a naturalistic manner, and would not resemble stone walls.

Based on a motion duly made and seconded, the Commission

**VOTED** to issue an Order of Conditions approving the work proposed in the Notice of Intent.

**Election of Officers of the Commission:**

After a brief discussion, a motion was made to nominate James Roth to a one year term as Chair of the Conservation Commission, and to nominate Christopher Morris as the Vice Chair of the Commission for the same period of time. The motion was seconded, and the Commission

**VOTED** to elect the officers as moved.

The vote was five in favor, with James Roth and Christopher Morris abstaining.

**CPA Grant Request:**

Mary Trudeau and Margaret Velie reviewed the 2023 CPA grant application to establish a “land purchase” account to be administered by the Conservation Commission. The account would be designated for use in facilitating land purchases, or purchases of conservation or deed restrictions, benefiting open space in Belmont. The final application was submitted in December, with future review by local boards, hopefully the subsequent approval at the 2023 Town Meeting.

Based on a motion duly made and seconded, the Commission

**VOTED** to adjourn the meeting at 9:30 pm