

**RECEIVED
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BELMONT, MA**

**MEETING MINUTES
Belmont Conservation Commission
May 2, 2023
Virtual Meeting
7:00 pm**

DATE: June 20, 2023
TIME: 3:22 PM

Attendees:

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

Others: Mary Trudeau; Kelly Cardoza; Michael Rose; Eduardo Cordeiro; Susan Lewis; Carolyn Bishop; Kaleb Keithley; Andrew Coleman; Paul McManus; Leonard Katz; Paul McManus

Call to Order:

The Meeting was Called to Order at 7:15 pm by Jim Roth

Approval of Minutes from March 28, 2023 Meetings:

Based on a motion duly made and seconded, the Commission

VOTED to approve the March 28, 2023 minutes as amended during the meeting

Approval of Minutes from April 3, 2023 Meetings:

Based on a motion duly made and seconded, the Commission

VOTED to approve the April 3, 2023 minutes as amended during the meeting

Discussion: Belmont Hill School: Appeal of Determination of Applicability

Mary Trudeau briefly updated the Commission with the recent filings by the various party's. Currently, the adjudication is focusing on the standing of the appellant group of abutters.

Discussion: Intergenerational Walking Path (School Side of Clay Pit Pond)

Mary Trudeau reported that Tom Gatzunis, the Town's project manager for the school project had been invited to the meeting tonight, but was unable to attend due to a recent medical issue. She noted that Tom had, previously, agreed to present the Commission with design alternatives for the path connection on the school side of the pond.

Prassade Vella reported that the oily sheen noted at Clay Pit Pond appears to be a natural phenomenon, and is not the result of an oil spill or release at the waterbody.

Discussion: Wetlands Issue on Somerset Road

Mary Trudeau reported that resurfacing of Somerset Road had been ongoing in recent days, and that she had issued a stop work order, and requested a wetlands filing for the portions of the work located within jurisdictional areas. She noted that the contractor was hired by a local resident, and appeared to have used millings, from pavement reclamation work, as the new surface. Somerset Road is a private way, and the contractor did not have permission from all owners of the right of way.

Public Hearing: Notice of Intent Application for 181 Winter Street (DEP File Number 106-160)

Kelly Cardoza, and Andrew Coleman, represented the Belmont Country Club's request for permission to reconstruct an existing bituminous cart path located within resource areas and jurisdictional buffer zones associated with the Clematis Brook. In response to an earlier comment from Mark Smith, Kelly presented a plan showing the mitigation that had been required, in the original 2004 filing for the cart path. She noted that while some of the mitigation planting was successful, and remained on the golf course, other planting areas had failed to be planted; had been removed; or were otherwise unsuccessful. Andrew Coleman noted that the Club would commit to restoring the 2004 mitigation areas as part of the reconstruction work proposed in this filing. This would fully mitigate for the original cart path construction, as well as remain in place as mitigation for the current rehabilitation of the same path. It was noted that the areas of restoration have been modified slightly from the 2004 plan, and these changes were depicted in a revised plan, submitted to the Commission at this meeting. The Commission asked that they be notified when the mitigation work has been completed.

Kelly noted that the proposed reconstruction would maintain existing cart path dimensions and elevations. All work would be done from the upside of the cart path, or from within the footprint of the cart path. No staging of materials will be done within the jurisdictional areas, and erosion controls will be employed.

The Commission noted that the Order of Conditions will contain the following special conditions, in addition to the standard special conditions:

1. Erosion controls shall be equivalent to a twelve inch filter tube with a compostable wrapping. No plastic shall be used in the erosion controls.
2. Mats will be used to protect turf wetlands on an as needed basis.
3. Work will be staged from the course side of the cart path, or from within the footprint of the cart path
4. Reclamation of the existing path shall be loaded into a waiting truck, and not stockpiled within a jurisdictional area.

Based on a motion duly made and seconded, the Commission

VOTED issue an Order of Conditions with the above noted special conditions, as well as the commitment from the Belmont Country Club to fully restore the mitigation areas approved in the 2004 Order of Conditions permitting the initial construction of the cart path.

Discussion: Control of Non Native and Invasive Plant species at Rock Meadow

The Commission discussed the lack of resolution with the Land Stewardship contract, noting that the contractor had not resolved the issues associated with the herbicide application on the Black Swallowwort stands. The Commission has serious concerns with the contractor's proposed use of broadcast spray, and would like to revert back to the original plan of hand applied herbicide treatments. The Commission noted that Chris Polatin had been asked to provide an estimate for the hand application of herbicide, and that this proposal has not been forthcoming. Mary Trudeau agreed to obtain proposals from Parterre and Essex Horticultural for management plans for the meadow.

Based on a motion duly made and seconded, the Commission

VOTED to adjourn the meeting at 9:00 pm