

**MEETING MINUTES**  
**Belmont Conservation Commission**  
**January 10, 2023**  
**Virtual Meeting**  
**7:00 pm**

**RECEIVED**  
**TOWN CLERK**  
**BELMONT, MA**

DATE: March 28, 2023  
TIME: 1:25 PM

**Attendees:**

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

Others: Mary Trudeau; Jim Morin; Tom Liddy; Patrick Rettig; Iris Ponte; Amanda Risch; Heather Pekarovich; Joan Teebagy; Leonard Katz; Marc Alexander; Paul Cambell; Steve Parnagian; Ara Barsoumian; Bob Corning

**Call to Order:**

The Meeting was Called to Order at 7:10 pm by Jim Roth

**Approval of Minutes from December 6, 2022 Meetings:**

Based on a motion duly made and seconded, the Commission

**VOTED** to approve the December 6, 2022 Minutes as corrected to show the correct meeting date.

**Discussion: Rules at Rock Meadow**

The Commission requested a separate meeting to discuss the Rules and Regulations for Rock Meadow. Mary Trudeau agreed to circulate potential dates to the Commission members.

**Discussion: Frisbee Golf at Rock Meadow**

Mary Trudeau reported that the Recreation Department has interest in potentially creating a frisbee golf course in Belmont, and has asked the Commission to consider allowing the course to be set at Rock Meadow. She noted that, due to mowing issues and nesting bird habitat, it would likely be a three season course. The course would require the installation of semi permanent basket structures at 9-18 locations throughout the meadow.

The Commission expressed concern with the appropriateness of the proposed activity on a parcel of land dedicated to passive recreation and wildlife habitat. Noting a potential conflict with the deed restrictions, the Commission also expressed concern with conflict between users at the Meadow. Concerns extended to path maintenance and the ability of the Commission to limit activity during nesting season, or periods of high pedestrian use. While no decision was made,

the Commission consensus was that the activity would be more appropriate at other parcels of Town owned land.

**Discussion: Grazing at Rock Meadow**

Joan Teebagy and Heather Pekarovitch presented a plan to incorporate grazing of sheep and goats into the management of Rock Meadow during the summer of 2023. Joan noted that the proposal is similar to past grazing programs, with goats included in the herd of 8-10 animals. Joan noted that she will continue to incorporate a temporary pen, constructed to include electrified fencing, in her grazing area. She will continue to use cameras to monitor activity within the pens. Joan noted that as in past years, she will post her contact information at the fence line.

The Commission requested that educational information, describing the project and the benefits to the Meadow, be posted in a kiosk near the parking lot. The Commission noted that the project raises lots of questions, and it is a public service to inform visitors of the goals of the program.

Based on a motion duly made and seconded, the Commission

**VOTED** to approve the use of a portion of Rock Meadow for grazing of 8-10 goats and sheep during the summer of 2023. The project will include submission of a plan showing the approximate location proposed for the fencing; a requirement that all fencing and equipment be off of Rock Meadow by October 8, 2023; and that there will be a public education component to the project, consisting at a minimum of postings and information within the existing kiosk.

**Discussion: Belmont Hill School Appeal of Order of Conditions**

There were no updates or discussion of this issue.

**Request for Certificate of Compliance: 85 Juniper Road (106-150)**

Mary Trudeau reported that the materials submitted with the Request for the Certificate of Compliance did not comply with the requirements set in the Order of Conditions for the project. Commission members noted that they would like to conduct a site inspection once an updated As Built plan and other certifications have been received.

**Request for Determination of Applicability: 127 Somerset Street**

James Morin, represented the proposed subsurface sewage disposal improvements at the 127 Somerset Street property, noting that a parallel review by the Belmont Board of Health was ongoing. Mr. Morin noted that the existing subsurface sewage disposal system (a cesspool) is in failure, and does not meet current Title V requirements. The proposed system will consist of a new tank system, with a leaching field. The cesspool will be abandoned. Work is within one hundred feet of a wetland, including an intermittent stream channel.

Discussion included concerns with the proximity of the system to the Brook; the potential inadequacy of the proposed erosion and sedimentation controls; and the procedures for abandonment of the existing cesspool.

The Commission requested that erosion and sedimentation controls should be expanded and improved to accommodate the existing site grades. Mr. Morin agreed to make this change.

Based on a motion duly made and seconded, the Commission

**VOTED** to issue a Negative Determination of Applicability (with a single signature) for the construction of the proposed Title V compliant subsurface sewage disposal system, with the plan amendment showing improved erosion and sedimentation controls.

**Notice of Intent: 396-404 Concord Avenue**

The Henry Frost Children's program submitted a Notice of Intent for playground and landscaping improvements within 200 feet of the Wellington Brook. Iris Ponte; Paul Campbell; Patrick Reddik and Amanda Rich presented the materials to the Commission.

The existing playground consists of approximately 3950 square feet of area. The work proposed consists of removal of portions of the bituminous concrete currently located on site and the subsequent installation of a combination of artificial turf and a "fibar" surface across the entire site. The Commission questioned whether artificial turf and a fibar surface are appropriate for Riverfront Area surfaces, and whether this would increase the degradation on the site. The applicant noted that there is no subsurface drainage system associated with these surface treatments. There is an existing underdrain with a discharge point into Wellington Brook, and this will be maintained to assist in draining the new play areas. The applicant noted that the finished grades will match the existing finish grades across the site.

The Commission requested several additional pieces of information, including: a description of the under surfaces associated with the artificial turf and fibar surfaces; a more detailed review of the Riverfront Area standards with respect to the proposed resurfacing of the site; details on the existing infiltration system on the property; details on the condition of the outfall on the Bank of the Wellington Brook; and the addition of native plants within the 0-25 foot buffer zone.

At the applicant's request, the public hearing was continued to the next meeting of the Conservation Commission.

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

The applicant reported that additional soil test pit data; compensatory flood storage; and details on the existing foundation and deck supports had been submitted to the Commission prior to this evening's meeting. The Commission members noted that it appeared that the applicant had addressed the comments of the DEP, as well as the clarifications requested by the Belmont Conservation Commission.

Based on a motion duly made and seconded, the Commission

**VOTED** issue an Order of Conditions (with a single signature) allowing the project as proposed, with clarification that no heavy equipment is to be used within jurisdictional flood plan areas..

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

Based on a motion duly made and seconded, the Commission

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