

APPROVED

**MEETING MINUTES**  
**Belmont Conservation Commission**  
**February 6, 2018 Meeting Minutes**  
**Room 1 Town Hall**  
**7:00 pm**

**Attendees:**

Members: Jim Roth (Chairman); Jeff North; Chris Morris; Miriam Weil

Others: Mary Trudeau; Joan Teebagy; Lauren Meier – Chair of the Historic Districts Commission; Dean Hazle (Keolis); Joe White

2018 APR -4 PM 2:34

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**7:05 Review of Minutes of December 5, 2017 meeting**

The Commission reviewed the minutes of the December 5, 2017 meeting.

**Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the vote was to approve the minutes as amended.**

**7:10** The Commission discussed potential meeting dates for 2018. Meeting dates are tentative, and will be confirmed by Mary Trudeau via email, after confirming the calendar with the Town Clerk's office.

**7:20 Chicken Layer Pilot Program for Summer of 2018**

Joan Teebagy, representing a group of animal husbandry people, asked permission to keep up to sixteen (16) layer hens at Rock Meadow. The hens will be fed and watered daily, by a volunteer group, and the eggs distributed to the volunteers. The hens will be at Rock Meadow through early fall, and then the birds will be relocated to new homes for the winter. The project is seasonal, and similar to those programs approved in past years. The chickens will be penned within a garden plot at The Community Gardens. She noted that, to date, there have been no losses due to predation. Joan noted that this proposal has been discussed by the Garden Committee, and was approved.

**Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the vote was unanimous to authorize Mary Trudeau to issue a letter of permission for the laying project, as proposed by Joan Teebagy.**

**7:25 Historic Districts Discussion of McLean Barn Stabilization Project**

Lauren Meier, representing the Historic Districts Commission, reviewed the CPA grant proposal to stabilize and evaluate the condition of the McLean Barn. Lauren noted that both the barn, and Rock Meadow, are within the boundaries of the National Historic

Register site associated with the McLean Hospital. Ms Meier noted that any discussions of future uses of the Barn will be postponed until the building has been stabilized.

7:30 **Public Hearing: Request for Determination of Applicability: Keolis Rail Line Tree Clearing Project (106-XXX)**

Dean Hazle, representing the Keolis project, described the request to do extensive tree clearing on land within the railroad right of way, as well as land under the care and control of the Board of Selectman (ie Town Land). The work, as proposed, exceeds that clearing allowed under the Yearly Operating Plan approved for the railroad. The YOP only permits clearing on land within the rail right of way, and the proposal in this RFD includes work on Town Land.

Noting that sight distances are currently compromised by the existing canopy vegetation, Dean requested permission to remove as many as fifty (50) mature trees. While not delineated on the plans submitted with the filing, the Commission noted that there is a Bordering Vegetated Wetland within the proposed work area, and that the work as proposed would be considered an alteration to a resource area. The Commission asked whether the project included a tree replacement or planting program, and Mr. Hazle noted that this was not a component of the project.

The Commission requested that a continuance of the public review process be requested by Mr. Hazle, and that the following pieces of information be supplied to the Commission:

1. A plan showing a field located wetland delineation;
2. A plan showing tree sizes, species and crown width for each of the trees proposed for removal;
3. An evaluation of the impacts of the proposed work on the wetland resource areas within the project locus.
4. A restoration plan, using saplings, to stabilize the altered areas after cutting.

The Commission also expressed concern with the use of a Request for Determination of Applicability for work involving the alteration of Bordering Vegetated Wetlands. The Commission suggested that the Notice of Intent might be a more appropriate application form.

**Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the vote was unanimous to grant the applicant the requested continuance of the Public Hearing to the March 6, 2018 meeting of the Commission.**

**Notice of Intent Application for the Intergenerational Walking Path and Veteran's Memorial at Clay Pit Pond (106-xxx):**

Mary Trudeau presented the most recent site plans for the Intergenerational Walking Path and the proposed improvements to the Veteran's Memorial at Clay Pit Pond. The Commission noted that it would be helpful to have a single plan showing the path and the memorial. The Commission commented on the proposed design, with the following comments:

1. The current layout of the walking path includes a section with too many curves. The Commission noted that the preferred layout would be a single "S" curve.
2. Electrical and water services should be added to the plan to allow for a spigot, fountain and lighting at the Veteran's Memorial.
3. Bench design should be uniform throughout the park, and the Commission would like to explore alternatives to the design proposed by BETA Group.
4. The path through the Memorial Circle should be straightened to facilitate the use by the Cross Country running team.

**Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the vote was unanimous to grant the applicant the requested continuance of the Public Hearing to the March 6, 2018 meeting of the Commission.**

**Notice of Intent Application for the Pequosset Park Intergenerational Walking Path and Park Improvements (106-xxx)**

Mary Trudeau presented the most recent site plans for the PQ Park improvements. Noting that jurisdiction is limited to the Land Under Waterway Resource areas within the existing drain lines, she reviewed the site plans with the Commission. Christopher Morris requested that the drainage calculations supporting the proposed design be submitted for review.

**Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the vote was unanimous to grant the applicant the requested continuance of the Public Hearing to the March 6, 2018 meeting of the Commission.**

**Master Plan for Rock Meadow Discussion:**

Jeff North reported that the Conway School of Design has accepted the Rock Meadow Masterplan as a project for the spring design studios. The School will assemble a team of three students, guided by faculty, to work with the Commission to prepare a Master Plan to determine the potential uses and carry capacity of the park land. Themes to be reviewed are likely to include: wildlife value; control of invasive and non native plant species; passive and active recreational usage; the community gardens; bird boxes; historical context; educational values; vegetation management; and the existing path system. The result of the project will be a ten year Stewardship Plan.

The estimated cost to the Commission is approximately 7k to 8K dollars. Mary Trudeau noted that the Judith K Record grants are a potential source of financing, and that a second option is the use of funds donated to the Commission by the Senior PGA Tour.

**Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the vote was unanimous to engage the services of the Conway School of Landscape Design to prepare a Stewardship Master Plan for Rock Meadow.**

**Adjourn**

**Upon a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:15 pm; as well as a second to the motion, the meeting was adjourned.**