

2018 MAY 16 AM 9:32

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

Attendees:

Members: Jim Roth (Chairman); Charles Chiang; Jeff North; Margaret Velie; Miriam Weil

Others: Mary Trudeau; Joe White; Angelo Fiorenze; Maria Aleida Leza; Darin Takemoto; Owen Thomas; Henry Thomas; Michael Thomas; Dan Nolan (Associate Member) Erik Zhang; Mandi Minichiello; Laurie Bracken; Caitlin Duennebier; Brian Fitzgibbons; Bill French, Jr. , Lauren Meier

7:05 Review of Minutes of February 6, 2018 meeting

The Commission reviewed the minutes of the December 5, 2017 meeting. Corrections were made to the attendance roster.

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

Review of Minutes of February 21, 2018 meeting

The Commission reviewed the minutes of the February 21, 2018 working session meeting.

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the vote was to approve the minutes as written

7:10 Discussion with Maria Leza and Darin Takemoto

The Commission discussed Ms Leza's efforts to assist with the control of non native and invasive plant species at Rock Meadow. Ms. Leza asked the Commission for permission to keep her dogs off leash during her work at the Meadow. She noted that the dogs are protective, and tend to stay at her site. The Commission was agreeable to this request, and agreed to mention the exception to usual dog leash policy to the Animal Control Officer.

Maria reported that there has been cutting of sumac near the bridge crossing into Waltham. She does not know the source of the activity and could not speculate on the reason for the observed clearing of a native species in a sensitive area. Mary Trudeau agreed to inspect the area once the snow clears.

Maria Leza also expressed concern with the loss of milkweed she has observed in the meadow over the past few years. She feels there is a correlation between mowing time and the successful seeding of the milkweed plants. Maria agreed to continue to research the issue.

7:30 **Public Hearing: Notice of Intent for an addition to single family home at 131 Oliver Road (106-0134)**

Erik Zhang, the homeowner, presented his proposal to expand the footprint of the existing dwelling at 131 Oliver Road. Mr. Zhang noted that while the proposed addition consisted of 610 square feet of new interior space, 210 square feet of this has been incorporated from the current footprint, resulting in a net expansion of 400 square feet. Mr. Zhang submitted a proposal for the infiltration of roof runoff, prepared by Fred Russell, PE. The system is located to the rear of the dwelling, and will be tied to the gutter system with drain lines.

A neighbor (unidentified) commented on the current flooding situation on his own lot, and expressed concern with the implications of the proposed work at 131 Oliver Road. The Commission noted that no alteration of the floodplain is proposed, and that the infiltration system provides some mitigation for additional storm water runoff generated in the proposed condition.

The Commission noted that erosion and sedimentation controls are required, and agreed to condition this in the Order of Conditions.

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the vote was unanimous to issue an Order of Conditions for the work proposed at 131 Oliver Road. The Order shall include a provision for the use of erosion and sedimentation controls during the construction phase of the project, and the standard conditions issued by the Belmont Conservation Commission.

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

Angelo Firenze, Joe White and Bill French presented the most recent site plans for the proposed improvements to the Veteran's Memorial at Clay Pit Pond. The team noted that the path behind the existing stone retaining wall has been eliminated, and the formerly proposed bench at the edge of the Pond removed from the proposal. Angelo noted that the plan has been modified to remove new bricks from areas within 25 feet of Clay Pit Pond.

Lauren Meier, Chairwoman of the Historic Districts Commission, expressed concern with the use of bricks on the site, and with the design of the monuments. Bill French noted that the monument and the engagement stones will likely be black marble, and that the bricks will have the name of the sponsors carved into the surface. He noted that the largest monument will be black granite, and consist of an 8 foot diameter granite circle, with a finished height of approximately 30 inches. This marker will have the names of Belmont veterans lost in the various engagements.

Lauren Meier noted that the site is on the Massachusetts Historic Register, and that preservation of the pastoral quality of the park is important. She believes that the proposed memorial should be reviewed by the Historic Districts Commission. Angelo Firenze noted that a meeting between the memorial committee and the HDC will be occurring soon. The Commission urged the Veteran's group to work with the HDC to develop an appropriate aesthetic for the memorial.

The Commission reviewed bench styles for use in the park. While no vote was taken, the consensus appeared to be a desire to use the style bench currently in use in Belmont Center. The Commission discussed two styles of mounts, noting that the preferred bench can utilize either mounting. The mounting suggested by BETA Group is to set the benches on posts, and the alternative includes setting the benches on concrete pads. The Commission agreed to continue researching this topic, and to continue the discussion until April.

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the vote was unanimous to grant the applicant the requested continuance of the Public Hearing to the April 10, 2018 meeting of the Commission.

Notice of Intent Application for the Pequotset Park Improvements (106-xxx)

Mary Trudeau noted that the applicant has not submitted the drainage calculations requested by the Conservation Commission.

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the vote was unanimous to grant the applicant the requested continuance of the Public Hearing to the April 10, 2018 meeting of the Commission.

Lone Tree Hill Update:

Jeff North noted that in accordance with the approved management plan for Pine Allee, 45 new trees will be planted in the Allee on April 28, 2018. He noted that the trees will be 2-3 feet in height, and will replace some of the 182 trees estimated to have been lost within the Allee. The work is being done to restore the functionality of the Allee.

Jeff also noted that the Lone Tree Hill site has received funding for the control of non native and invasive plant species.

Master Plan for Rock Meadow:

Jeff North reported that the Conway School of Design has contracted for the Rock Meadow Masterplan as a project for the spring design studios, and that the kick off meeting for the project will be on April 17, 2018. The student team will meet with the Commission, and local stakeholders, to scope the project. Jeff noted that he would be publicizing the meeting in a variety of venues, including the local paper, and that any interested parties should attend the meeting. Jeff noted that the final design studios will be held on May 25 in East Hampton, MA.

Jeff noted that the Conway students need copies of any materials that relate to Rock Meadow. He agreed to coordinate the assembly of the materials.

Bee Keeper Discussion:

Mandi Minichiello led the beekeeper discussion. She reported on the successes and stresses incurred last summer and noted that in addition to the three current sets of hives, Laurie Brackett is interested in starting a hive this summer. Caitlin Duennebier and Brian Fitzgibbons noted that their adventures included a swarm event, and Mandi reported a yield of approximately ten pounds of honey.

Based on a motion duly made and seconded, the Commission voted to issue permits for the following:

Mandi Minichiello – (2) hives
Laurie Beckett (1-2) hives
Peter Meier (2-4) hives
Caitlin Duennebier and Brian Fitzgibbons (3) hives.

The motion passed unanimously.

Adjourn

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