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MEETING MINUTES
Belmont Conservation Commission
September 11, 2018 Meeting Minutes
Room 2, Town Hall
7:00 pm

Attendees:

Members: Jim Roth (Chairman); Charles Chiang; Christopher Morris; Margaret Velie; Miriam Weil;

Others: Mary Trudeau; Dan Nolan, Joan Teebagy, Martin Plass

7:15 Harvard Running Club Request to Use Rock Meadow

Michelle Vaccaro, representing the Harvard Cross Country Running Club, requested permission to hold two events at Rock Meadow on September 29, 2018. Noting that the Club has used the meadow for previous events, she noted that the club is familiar with the need to leave the meadow clean and unmarked at the end of the races. She stated that the club will rent additional portable toilets for the weekend, and will pick up and take out all trash generated by the running events. The Commission reviewed the limited parking available, and Michelle noted that the club will encourage Ubers; carpooling and the use of public transportation. She noted that the races will take place between 10 am and 1 pm, and that the Meadow will be vacated shortly afterwards. The Club typically makes a donation of \$250 dollars towards the mowing and maintenance of the Meadow

Based on a motion duly made and seconded, the Commission

VOTED to approve the use of Rock Meadow for two, cross country races on September 29, 2018

7:30 Belmont Hill School Request to Use Rock Meadow:

Mary Trudeau noted that the Belmont Hill School has, again, requested the use of Rock Meadow to host two, cross country running events. The events will be held on October 20 and 27, 2018. The school will bus runners to the site, and will be responsible for providing additional toilets for the students. The school has committed to removing any trash or debris generated by the running events. The school typically makes a donation of \$250 dollars per event towards the mowing and maintenance of the Meadow.

Based on a motion duly made and seconded, the Commission

VOTED to approve the use of Rock Meadow for Cross Country events on October 20 and 27, 2018.

8:20 Clay Pit Pond: Intergenerational Walking Path

Mary Trudeau noted that the bid process has resulted in the awarding of a contract to Ron Marini Construction for the building of the new Veteran's Memorial and paths at the Clay Pit Pond. Mary discussed some of the field modifications made at the site, and noted that the contractor has proposed several cost saving measures. In particular, the pillars and wall at the intersection of Underwood Street and Concord Avenue will be repaired and restored, rather than replaced. The contractor has also agreed to use stone from the existing circular wall, at the flag pole, within the new, replacement wall. Minor variations in the layout of the path have been made to accommodate field conditions, and work is underway on both the paths and the memorial area.

8:30 Sprinkler Park Outfall:

Christopher Morris noted that while the sprinkler park is operational, the outfall at the Wellington Brook has been poorly constructed. He noted that he is unwilling to issue a Certificate of Compliance until the outfall is correctly stabilized.

8:35 PQ Park Update:

Christopher Morris noted that the drainage installation work is underway at the park, and that the chambers have been installed. The system is not yet functional, and the recent storm events should not be used to evaluate the future benefits of the system.

8:45 CPA Requests for 2018-2019 Funding

The Commission discussed the submission of requests for funds to restore native plant communities at, both, Rock Meadow and Clay Pit Pond. She noted that this type of work will enhance and preserve native vegetation, improving wildlife habitat and preserving the historic character of the properties. Mary Trudeau noted that she has asked Chris Polatin to prepare cost estimates for the work required to restore native plants through the eradication and control of non native invasives. Mary agreed to file preliminary requests for both sites by the September deadline.

8:40 Conway School Master Plan

The Commission discussed the Master Plan. Issues included the proposed parking lot improvements; the control of non native and invasive plant species; and path improvement projects. The Commission noted that the Plan included a proposal for burning to keep the meadow as a grassland. The Commission noted that the Fire Department use the field to practice fire suppression techniques.

Martin Plass asked the Commission to consider the possibilities that could occur with the adaptive reuse of the McLean Barn. Martin suggested that a café would be an amenity that could benefit users of the meadow, while contributing to the finances of the Meadow operations. The Commission noted that there are currently use restrictions on the Barn, and that this would need to be revisited by Town Meeting.

Noting that Jeff North was not present at the discussion, the Commission agreed to continue the review at an upcoming meeting.

Adjourn

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