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**MEETING MINUTES**  
**Belmont Conservation Commission**  
**November 20, 2018 Meeting Minutes**  
**Room 2, Town Hall**  
**7:00 pm**

**Attendees:**

Members: Jeff North (Acting Chair); Miriam Weil; Margaret Velie

Others: Mary Trudeau; Dan Nolan, Joan Teebagy, Jean Devine and Barbara Passaro

The Meeting was convened at 7:10 pm.

Due to a lack of quorum, there were no votes or actions taken at this meeting.

**7:15 Meadowsclaping for Biodiversity**

Jean Devine and Barbara Passaro presented their venture, Meadowsclaping for Biodiversity, to the members of the Commission. Meadowsclaping is an outdoor education program designed to introduce children and teens to ecological principals. The group uses native plants to create pollinator and wildlife habitat in urban areas, and is looking to expand their work to include enhancement of other natural systems. Their work includes a Youth Environmental Entrepenship Program which empowers participants to sell native plants and educate outside of the program participants. The program is interested in exploring a partnership with Rock Meadow.

While the Commission did not take a formal vote of support, the members in attendance were generally supportive of the program goals, and had some interest in continuing discussions.

**8:00 Fencing Issue presented by Joan Teebagy**

Joan Teebagy noted that the installation of the temporary fencing for the grazing pilot program is labor intensive. She reported that the fence must be completely removed each season, as part of the current agreement with the Conservation Commission. Joan broached a proposal for semi permanent fencing to the Commission. The members in attendance showed little or no support for the proposal and expressed concern with the use of public land for a dedicated private purpose. Noting that the current sheep grazing is a pilot program, the members stated that semi permanent fencing would imply a permanent use permit that is not supported by the Town.

The Commissioners noted that there are use restrictions on the Rock Meadow property that preclude the construction of permanent structures. Additionally, current management

practices require a thorough annual mowing, and permanent fence posts would impair this maintenance. The Commission noted that as a pilot program, there is an implied condition of temporary use. Permanent fencing is not in line with that implication.

The Commission suggested that Ms. Teebagy research alternatives that might retain the temporary nature of the fencing, and reduce the work to install the fences.

Based on a motion, and duly seconded, the Commission

VOTED           to adjourn the meeting at 9 pm.

The meeting was adjourned by a unanimous vote of the members in attendance.