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MEETING MINUTES
Belmont Conservation Commission
February 19, 2019 Meeting Minutes
Room 2, Town Hall
7:00 pm

Attendees:

Members: Jim Roth (Chair) , Jeff North (Vice Chair); Margaret Velie; Miriam Weil; Christopher Morris; Dan Nolan; Charles Chiang

Others: Mary Trudeau; Mike Morrison (Skanska) Vital Albuquerque (Perkins and Will); Shane Nolan (DPI); Michelle Callahan (Nitsch Engineering); Mark Smith

The Meeting was convened at 7:10 pm.

Based on a motion made, and duly seconded, the Commission

VOTED to approve the January 15, 2019 meeting minutes.

MACC Annual Meeting Discussion:

Charles Chiang and Jeff North agreed to represent the Conservation Commission at the Annual Meeting of the MACC. Mary Trudeau advised them to register with a credit card, and provide her with a copy of the statement for reimbursement.

Signage for Rock Meadow:

Dan Nolan presented photographs of the faded signage currently in place at Rock Meadow to regulate activity at the Meadow. Noting that new signage would allow for better guidance to meadow users, the Commission began a conversation describing the important policies to be highlighted through new signage. It was agreed that urging pedestrians and bike riders to stay on the mowed paths; prohibition of drones; and leashing of dogs were three of the critical issues facing the Commission. Mary Trudeau agreed to research signage at Lone Tree Hill and Habitat, and to consider language for new signs. Noting that "metal" signs indicate regulatory authority, the Commission agreed to investigate other materials for signage.

Rock Meadow Master Plan – Proposed Parking Lot Improvements

Jeff North reported that Taureen Gagnon and Sam Friedman have submitted a proposal for the design of LID (Low Impact Development) features to mitigate for proposed paving improvements. Anticipated features include: bioswales; rain gardens; and a new pollinator garden. Noting that Christopher Morris has agreed to assist in the survey and

design of the parking lot improvements, Jeff stated that Sam and Taureen would need to coordinate with the engineering team.

Based on a motion duly made and seconded, the Commission

VOTED to approve a contract, engaging Sam Friedman and Taureen Gagnon, to design green infrastructure in conjunction with parking lot improvements at Rock Meadow. The contracted amount is 3K dollars (\$3000.00 dollars).

The Commission authorized Mary Trudeau to pay one half of the contracted amount prior to the start of work.

Request for Determination of Applicability: Belmont High School Utility Work:

Representatives of the Belmont School Building Committee, as well as engineers and designers associated with the project, appeared in front of the Conservation Commission to represent the RDA for the pre bid package utility work. The project as described will relocate utility lines, within the access driveway and portions of the school site. The work is considered “enabling” work associated with the upcoming school renovations. Other work included in the RFD includes paving of a temporary walkway at the perimeter of the Clay Pit Pond.

Michelle Callahan, PE, representing the applicant, noted that the work will consist of 550 feet of relocated 24” inch sewer line and the relocation of 725 feet of 8” inch water line. The proposed temporary paved sidewalk will be approximately 8 feet wide, and will provide safe pedestrian access during the construction phase of the school building project.

While the Commission was comfortable that the proposed utility relocation work could be permitted under this RDA filing, there were significant concerns with the new paved sidewalk proposed in the filing. Noting that no storm water mitigation or treatment has been included in the Request for Determination, the Commission requested additional information on the overall storm water management work being proposed for the site. The Commission noted that ADA compliance does not require bituminous concrete or an impervious surface on sidewalks. The Commission did agree that the creation of safe, year round access to the school for pedestrians must be considered.

The Commission discussed the abandonment of the temporary sidewalk with the design team, noting that the Intergenerational Walking Path will be constructed largely within the same footprint as the temporary walk. The Commission noted that restoration efforts should include work to facilitate this planned path, and could include the School Building project construction some portion of the proposed path.

At the request of the applicant, the public meeting was continued until the March 5, 2019 meeting of the Conservation Commission.

Lone Tree Hill Update:

Jeff North, as liaison to the Land Management Committee, reported on recent work sponsored by the Belmont Citizens Forum and Habitat to replant young pines within the Allee. Jeff noted that upcoming work includes garlic mustard and knotweed culling, as well as new signage for the access point at Pleasant Street and the Coal Road.

Library Project:

Margaret Velie noted that the Library Committee is continuing to develop options for the enhancement of the town library, and that a meeting is planned for March 13, 2019 at 7 pm in the Assembly Room at the library. She noted that the Committee has expressed an interest in engaging representatives of the Conservation Commission to discuss jurisdictional issues. Mary Trudeau and Margaret agreed to try and attend the meeting.

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Commission

VOTED to adjourn the meeting at approximately 8:40 pm