

MEETING MINUTES
Belmont Conservation Commission
April 14, 2020 Meeting Minutes
Virtual Meeting via Zoom Meeting
6:00 pm

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TOWN CLERK
BELMONT, MA

DATE: April 1, 2021
TIME: 8:40 AM

Attendees:

Members: James Roth (Chair); Jeff North (Vice Chair); Christopher Morris; Peg Velie; Dan Nolan; Charles Chiang (left virtual meeting prior to Call to Order); Mark Smith (Associate)

Others: Ara Yogurtian (host); Roy Epstein (liaison from Board of Selectmen); Suzanne Trasavage (Animal Control Officer); Judy Otto; Freddy Tresler; Katia Muser; Catherine Stahlberg

Call to Order:

The Meeting was Called to Order at 6:27 pm, due to technical issues with the remote conferencing.

Discussion: Northeastern Capstone Project

Jeff North reported on the student presentation on April 15, 2020, noting that the project was very well received and professionally presented. He noted that a 137 page packet was presented to supplement the virtual presentation. Christopher Morris noted that he had enjoyed mentoring the group, and noted that the plans required additional information to be considered construction level drawings.

Mark Smith noted that Glenn Clancy should be presented with the proposed parking lot plans, and asked to comment. He noted that Glenn will need to support the project, if we are to move forward. He also suggested contacting the Historic Districts Commission, and the Land Management Committee, as both agencies will have comments on the project. Mary and Jeff agreed to pursue next steps.

Bee Keeper proposal:

Christopher Morris reported that he has worked with Sissy Liu, a gardener at Rock Meadow, and she has submitted a bee keeping proposal for this summer. He noted that she has been in contact with Mandy Minichello (head bee keeper) to determine appropriate hive locations.

Based on a motion duly made and seconded, the Commission

VOTED to approve an application for bee hives at Rock Meadow from Sissy Liu

Fern Path at Habitat:

Mary Trudeau reported on a recent site visit to the Fern Path, at the Habitat open space. She noted that a wooden crossing of an intermittent stream crossing was in disrepair, after the winter, and appeared to be constricting stream flow from an adjacent property. The Commission discussed whether the crossing condition warranted consideration as a violation of the Wetlands Protection Act, and agreed to have Mary Trudeau send a letter and photographs to Roger Wrubel, urging remediation of the conditions observed this spring.

Discussion: Rock Meadow

Suzanne Trasavage updated the Commission on dog related issues at Rock Meadow. She noted that while the meadow continues to host many users, the number of leashed dog violations appears to be decreasing. She estimated that approximately ten percent of the dogs are currently failing to be leashed. She reported that she had sent a letter to all dog owners, a few weeks ago, reinforcing the Town's leashing regulations.

Roy Epstein asked Suzanne whether she was comfortable doing enforcement without assistance from the Belmont Police Department, and she stated that she was confident in her ability to work independently. Dan Nolan reminded the Commission that signage was needed to educate and remind users of the existing regulations. Suzanne noted that we need to readjust dog walker habits, and that it takes repetitive reminders.

Judy Otto noted damage to the dog waste station, at the parking lot entrance to the Meadow. She noted that she has had social distancing issues with other users of the meadow, and noted that masks are not being used by all visitors to the Meadow. Judy also noted that non gardeners are using the garden paths, increasing social distancing issues. Catherine Stahlberg echoed Judy's plea for mask use and enforcement.

The Commission discussed the parking concerns along Mill Street, noting that this is a Belmont Police Department issue. Roy Epstein noted that no signage can be added to roadways, by the BPD, without approval of the Board of Selectmen.

The Commission discussed the need to update the temporary signage with permanent signs. Temporary signage is not being respected, and is being vandalized. Mary Trudeau agreed to discuss signs with the DPW.

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Commission **VOTED** to adjourn the meeting at approximately 7:50 pm