

MEETING MINUTES
Belmont Conservation Commission
March 30, 2021 Meeting Minutes
Virtual Meeting via Zoom Meeting
7:00 pm

RECEIVED
TOWN CLERK
BELMONT, MA

DATE: November 17, 2021
TIME: 8:44 AM

Attendees:

Members: Jim Roth (Chair); Jeff North (Vice Chair); Miriam Weil; Christopher Morris; Peg Velie; Dan Nolan; Charles Chiang; Mark Smith (Associate)

Others: Carolyn Bishop; Judy Singler; Alexander Wong; Judy Otto; Amanda McCarthy; Tom Grimble; Scott Rossi; Glen Wong; Hannah Miller; Jamie Atkins; Adam Glick; Sadie Forbes; Giovanni Fodera; Phillip Thomas; Mandy Minichelle; Suzanne Mercury;

Call to Order:

The Meeting was Called to Order at 7:10 pm by Vice Chairman, Jeff North.

Approval of Minutes of February 23, 2021 Meetings:

Based on a motion duly made and seconded, the Commission

VOTED to approve the Minutes of the February 23, 2021 meeting, as amended.

Chairman Jim Roth arrived at the virtual meeting, and resumed the position of Chair.

Discussion: Proposals for Seating Area and Pond Overlook Designs

Mary Trudeau discussed a recent conversation with Amanda McCarthy, noting that Ms. McCarthy has concerns with the progress and delays incurred in creating a seating area to memorialize Cleo Theodopolis. Mark Smith and Chris Morris agreed to work with Ms. McCarthy and expedite the planning process. Ms. McCarthy was advised that an approval from the Board of Selectmen would likely be required to approve the project.

Discussion: Alex Wong Eagle Scout project

Alex Wong, Eagle Scout candidate from Troop BSA 304, reported on the status of his project. Alex reported that the Historic Districts Commission has endorsed his project, as well as the Conservation Commission. He noted that he will be presenting the plan to the Board of Selectmen, and is planning on a late spring installation. Alex showed the Commission a ¼ scale mock up of the planned kiosk, showing the roof style on the three sided structure.

Discussion: Trail improvements near Marsh Street at Rock Meadow

Tom Grimble and Adam Glick (current President of the New England Mountain Bike Association) proposed the restoration of a historic access point across from Marsh Street, and the abandonment of an access point located to the south of Marsh Street. Noting that the current intersection and cross walk are dangerous, the suggested relocation will improve sight distance and safety for pedestrians and bikers.

Tom noted that the work required to restore the access point was light, consisting of about a day's worth of handwork. He noted that string trimming could be required initially to create an eight foot wide trail. He noted that is required a slight amount of increased mowing, but that it was insignificant in comparison to the existing length of mowed trails.

Chris Morris noted that the existing stands of Knotweed are a safety issue for those crossing Mill Street. Jeff stated that the Town periodically mows the Knotweed to improve sight distances, but that mowing monies may be at risk due to failure of the recent override.

The Commission agreed to meet on Tuesday, April 7, 2021 at the proposed crossing to view the site conditions.

Bee Keeping Permits for 2021:

Mandy Minichelle, representing the bee keeper community at Rock Meadow, gave a brief presentation locating the existing hives, and documenting some of the successes (and failures) experience over the past year. She noted that the bee keepers have created a strong, supportive community consisting of approximately (7) bee keeping partnerships. Mandy reviewed the hive requests for the upcoming year, noting that new keepers Sadie Forbes and Suzanne Mercury would be assisted by Boston Bee Company. Phillip Thomas, noted that, while, he was new to the group, he is an experienced active bee keeper in the region.

Mandy agreed to update the map of the hive locations when all hives have been set for the season. She noted that the number of hives is not a fixed amount, but reflects the function of a mixed use facility. Mandy noted that bees routinely travel several miles from the hive, and that she was not concerned with over populating the meadow with hives based on the current permit requests.

Based on a motion duly made and seconded, the Commission

VOTED to issue one year permits to each of the applicants who have applied for approval for the 2021 season.

The motion was unanimously approved.

Public Hearing: Notice of Intent for 275 Marsh Street, Belmont

Hannah Miller and Jamie Atkins, as owners and developers of the property, presented their plans for a sewer line connection; addition, pool and terrace at 275 Marsh Street. Giovanni Fedor, a registered professional engineer, attended the meeting to support his drainage analysis and stormwater mitigation plans for the site. While not in attendance, the applicant noted that the wetlands delineation was done by Richard Kirby of LEC.

Hannah noted that the proposed work was at least 60' (sixty feet) from the flagged edge of the wetland resource area. She noted that the sewer line would allow for the abandonment of the

existing subsurface sewage disposal system, and that the patio would be constructed with pervious pavers.

Giovanni Fedor reviewed his stormwater management design, noting that the system consisted of two, subterranean infiltration chamber fields. Christopher Morris requested that an O/M plan, and a detail of the gutter connection be added to the site plan. He noted that the plan should also be updated to include erosion and sedimentation controls.

Mr. Fedor noted that there would be alarms on the force main system, alerting the homeowner to any failure of the system. The plans show the pump/lift station set within the former settling tank (associated with the subsurface sewage disposal system) and that the leaching field would be abandoned in accordance with the wishes of the Board of Health. He noted that the lines would be capped and the pipes abandoned.

Mr. Morris noted that a test pit had not been done for the infiltration system, and Mr. Fedor noted that the soils on this site are mapped as hydrologic group "A". Mr. Morris noted that if soils should prove to be less permeable, the system may need to be redesigned.

At the request of the applicant, the Commission

VOTED to continue the public hearing until the next meeting of the Commission. This will allow the requested plan changes to be made, and for a DEP file number to be issued.

Discussion: Mill Street Roadway Improvements

The Commission discussed the ownership of Rock Meadow, noting that the property was accepted by the Town, on behalf of the Conservation Commission, at the 1968 Town Meeting. The warrant listed this item as Article 2. The Commission reiterated concerns with the protection of wild life habitat; grassland; ecology and aesthetics. The Commission asked Mary Trudeau to request a presentation from Glenn Clancy at the next meeting of the Commission.

Discussion of Conditions at Clay Pit Pond:

The Commission briefly discussed the Fall 2020 violations at Clay Pit Pond, noting that there has been little positive change on the property in recent months. Mary Trudeau note that she had spoken with Patrice Garvin, recently, and that Ms. Garvin was applying for a resiliency grant to fund some of the improvements at Clay Pit Pond. Mary Trudeau noted that she had provided the DPW with details on the type of tackifier to be used in the hydroseeding repairs at Clay Pit Pond.

Lone Tree Hill Update:

Jeff North reported that the Land Management Committee has approved funding for three (3) projects at Lone Tree Hill for the upcoming year. The projects consist of Forest Restoration; Meadow Management for Invasive Plant Species; and creation of a Pollinator Patch. He noted that matching funds had been obtained from the Judith K Record Fund.

Upcoming Agenda Items

The Commission asked Mary Trudeau to include an **Executive Session** on upcoming agendas. This will allow the Commission to discuss enforcement actions and legal strategies outside of the public forum.

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Commission

VOTED to adjourn the meeting at approximately 9:10 pm