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**MEETING MINUTES
Belmont Conservation Commission
October 6, 2021 Meeting Minutes
Virtual Meeting
7:00 pm**

DATE: January 4, 2022
TIME: 2:32 PM

Attendees:

Members: Jim Roth (Chairman) Margaret Velie; Miriam Weil; Christopher Morris; Dan Nolan; Prassede Vella

Others: Mark Carthy; Rich Minton; Michael Pincus; Phil Thayer; Judy Singler; Peter Struzzieri; Frank French; Judy Otto; Mike Santoro

Call to Order:

The Meeting was Called to Order at 7:05 pm by Chairman Jim Roth.

Review of Minutes: The Commission reviewed the minutes of the July 26, 2021 and August 31, 2021 meetings. Based on a motion duly made and seconded, the Commission

VOTED to approve the minutes of the July 26, 2021 meeting

VOTED to approve the minutes of the August 31, 2021 meeting.

Proposal for Native Plantings at Clay Pit Pond

The Commission discussed the use of Clay Pit Pond property to host a Climate Action Club school project involving the restoration of native vegetation to a portion of the land surrounding Clay Pit Pond. Mary Trudeau noted that she had received some information from the student group, but that it did not adequately describe the work entailed, nor did it detail the upkeep of the planting area. The Commission noted that while they are supportive of the project, and would like to encourage the students, there are conditions that will be required to ensure the success of the project. These conditions likely include a long term maintenance commitment from staff and leadership of the school group. Mary noted that there are no faculty advisors on the documents submitted, and that this is a key to longevity of the project. Mary agreed to reach out to Francesca Kitch, the student representative of the Climate Action Club, and discuss the sustainability of the project.

Public Meeting for Request for Determination of Applicability: Belmont Library Invasive Plant Species Control

Peter Struzziero, director of the Belmont Library, submitted a plan to control and manage the non native and invasive vegetation along the rear of the parking lot and the Bank of the Wellington

Brook. The proposal is from Essex Horticultural, and requests a three year treatment program, using a combination of herbicide application; cutting; reseeding with a native seed mix; and retreatment.

Based on a motion duly made and seconded, the Commission

VOTED to approve the proposal for the control of Knotweed, with the inclusion of application of a native seed mix to be applied within the treatment areas.

Public Hearing: 65 Vernon Street – Request for Amendment to Order of Conditions (106-1047)

Michael Pincus, representing himself, presented the Commission with a revised site plan. The revisions were the requirement of the Zoning Board of Appeals, and required a reduced footprint of the new addition; retention of the existing garage (rather than construction of a new garage); and minor changes to the approved inground pool and landscaping. The applicant noted that the reduction in the size of the addition was the result of the Town's requirement for less than thirty (30) percent impervious cover on a residential lot. The Commission requested the erosion control barrier be relocated to be outside of the 25 foot buffer zone.

Based on a motion duly made and seconded, the Commission

VOTED to approve the amended site plan, and incorporate it into an amended Order of Conditions, with the proviso that the limit of work line be set at, or above, the 25 foot buffer zone.

Public Meeting: Request for Determination of Applicability for 1034 Concord Avenue

Michael Santoro, representing the Town of Belmont Department of Public Works, presented a proposal to construct a temporary parking area at the 1034 Concord Avenue site. The parking area would be used to store the school buses used to service the Town schools during the day. Mr. Santoro noted that the parking surface is temporary, and reflects the current contract with the school bus providers. The contract requires that buses remain in Belmont during the school day, and recent construction work at Belmont High School requires temporary relocation of the buses formerly parked at the High School. The DPW contends that there is no other reasonable location for the temporary parking of the school buses within Belmont.

The parking lot will be located within the footprint of the current "stump dump" at the north end of the site. As stumps are ground and chipped, the surface of the parking area will be created with a crushed stone product. Wood chips and stump grindings will be placed along the western edge of the new surface, creating a berm between the wetlands and the new parking area. The new surface will be approximately 200 feet long, and 40 feet wide, and will incorporate existing paved driveways and access points into the site. Mike Santoro noted that the tenure of the parking need is two years, after which the parking area will be abandoned.

Based on a motion duly made and seconded, the Commission

VOTED to approve the Request for the construction and use of a temporary parking area, FOR A PERIOD OF NO MORE THAN TWO YEARS, at the 1034 Concord Avenue property. The conditions included a requirement for off site refueling of

buses, and a requirement that repairs to buses be done off site, as well. The vote was not unanimous, with one member abstaining.

Judith K Record Fund

Jeff North was not in attendance to discuss the Endowment Challenge potentially sponsored by the Judith K Record fund. The discussion was postponed to allow for Jeff's participation.

CPA Projects

Margaret Velie reviewed the (8) projects proposed for CPA funding at this years Town Meeting. None of the projects has been sponsored by the Conservation Commission this year.

The Commission, by roll call vote, voted to enter Executive Session at approximately 9 pm to approve the Executive Session Minutes of June 15, 2021 and August 31, 2021.

The Commission returned to Regular Session at approximately 9:15 pm

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Commission

VOTED to adjourn the meeting at approximately 9:15 pm