

## **LAND MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING**

**Minutes from DECEMBER 18, 2001**

**@ Town Hall**

Members Present:

Stephen Kidder  
McLean Hospital

Ellen O'Brien Cushman  
Chair, Cemetery Commission

Lauren Meier  
Belmont Citizen

Michele Gougeon  
McLean Hospital

Richard Pichette  
Historic District Commission

Andrew Healy,  
McLean Hospital

Members not Present:

Frank Keefe  
McLean Hospital

Ruth Foster  
Conservation Committee

Others Present: Timothy Higgins, Senior Planner, Walter McLaughlin, Kit Drier, David Kleinschmidt, NEMBA, Arthur Katz - Belmont Citizen Herald Newspaper

**7:06 p.m.** Chair Ellen O'Brien Cushman opens meeting.

Minutes from previous meeting October 17, 2001 approved unanimously (6:0). Richard Pichette noted that he will take minutes next meeting.

Stephen Kidder provided a brief update on the status of the possible amendments to the Conservation Restriction (CR). He will meet with Wesley Ward from The Trustees of the Reservations (TTOR) next week. There is a question as to the need for a co-holder of the CR. Tim Higgins observed that the Land Management Committee needs a detailed list of exactly what changes are needed to the Conservation Restriction. (Re: bicycles, utilities, telecommunications, etc.) Ellen O'Brien Cushman wanted to take a straw pole as the Committee's wishes on this issue. The Committee is probably looking to the April Town Meeting for any changes. Any changes would have to be agreeable to McLean Hospital, TTOR and the Town Meeting. Walter McLaughlin believes Stephen Kidder and Wesley Ward should come up with the proposed changes. T. Higgins offered his assistance as a representative from the Town. Lauren Meier supports this approach and wants a unified

approach with the LMC in support of the proposal at Town Meeting. A discussion of the process all parties need to follow to arrive at an agreement followed. There should be ample opportunity for public commentary. All agreed.

**7:20 p.m.** Andy Healy from McLean provided an update in the debris removal schedule from the North Meadow. He provided members with a handout and employed a detailed site map. Andy would like the project to start in a few weeks - before the ground freezes. Erosion controls will be in the first week in January. Debris removal would begin on January 30th or so. There will be a lull after that to March/April (depending upon the weather) when the work will begin once again with the final grading and seeding (see file).

He said that testing of the material (as required by the MOA) will occur between debris removal phase and the grading (March 2002).

Lauren Meier wanted to be sure Pressley will do inspections. Yes, they will be involved. Tim Higgins noted that Office of Community Development will also be performing daily inspections. Lauren Meier would like to know what "meadow mix" is to be used. Andy Healy will provide this information as the activity draws closer.

**7:32 p.m.** Committee reorganization was discussed. It was unanimously agreed to retain the status quo.

**7:35 p.m.** Tim Higgins provided a brief update on the status of the Telecommunications facility. There is not much new to report other than the Request for Proposal going out to determine vendor interest in the site. A consultant is expected to be retained shortly to assist the Town in the design and planning of this facility. Action is expected at the April Annual Town Meeting.

**7:50 p.m.** Ellen O'Brien Cushman noted that she has received information from the Judy Record Fund to raise money for the McLean Open Space. Organizers of this drive want to appear before the Committee at its next meeting. The intent of raising private fund is to augment public funding for improvements on the land. This will be placed on the January agenda and Kit Dreier will make copies of the information for each member.

Tim Higgins provided a brief update of the proposed change in the parking lot on the Belmont Day School campus. This lot was approved during the summer of 01 but is being modified in response to advice from abutters. A Public Hearing will be held before the Planning Board during its January 2, 2002 meeting. The change is strongly supported by the abutters and the Office of Community Development.

**7:35 p.m.** Discussion then returned to the proposed Conservation Restriction amendments. Richard Pichette initiated the conversation on the bicycle issue. He is an advocate for allowing bikes on alternate trails. He is impressed with the work that NEMBA people have submitted. However, any change allowing bike should be conditional upon successful mutual use (re: pedestrian and bicycle users). Lauren Meier agreed completely and noted that NEMBA could actually become a "partner" of the LMC in properly managing and developing the trail system. Stephen Kidder spoke in support as well but noted that the current trail system does not work well for both types of users. Therefore, the details of shared trail use have to be looked into carefully. Limited resources to manage the land will be a problem of the Town and the LMC. Andy Healy wants to know more about the specifics of implementation of a new trail system.

Michelle Gougeon agreed with the concept and also commended NEMBA for its recent presentation. She opined that the Committee needs to hear from walkers and the specific of how trail management will occur. Ellen O'Brien Cushman is less enthusiastic about the change due to its possible negative impact on the conservation values endorsed. Natural resource protection is her # 1 concern. Enforcement of "no bicycles" is virtually impossible. She, too, praised the work of NEMBA. Last, she wants to promote local use, not regional use of the land, as parking is a big problem.

Lauren Meier reaffirmed her concern with the actual implementation of a new trail system for bikes. It is a very large undertaking - especially considering an April Town Meeting. A discussion on this process followed. It was noted that the timing of Town Meeting (April, leaving time for only two or three meetings on the LMC) will only allow for a policy-level position by the LMC.

Ellen O'Brien Cushman suggested the CR amendment issues be itemized before the meeting was adjourned. She first suggested that the LMC compare the NEMBA trail proposal with the Ecological Management Plan. This was agreed to. Lauren Meier offered to place both concepts on a single plan. Tim Higgins offered to assist in this.

Tim Higgins will also propose draft language to address the Telecommunications facilities issue within the CR.

Stephen Kidder will discuss the language on "public utilities" and making the CR more flexible and come to some agreement with Wesley Ward from TTOR. These agreements will be provided to the Committee prior to the January meeting so they can be discussed in detail at that next meeting.

Day School Soccer Field - do we need limitations on this? It is under the Conservation Restriction currently. The Day School owns the field and will need to agree to any changes to the Conservation Restriction. They bought the property under the existing CR but the Committee expressed concerns over the activities permitted on the soccer field property, particularly "utilities" determination.

**8:31 p.m.** There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.

Next Land Management meeting will be January 22, 2002 at the Town of Belmont, Conference Room # 3 at **7:00 p.m.**