

LAND MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING
March 11, 2003 Minute
@ Town Hall

Members Present:

Ellen O'Brien Cushman	Chairman, Cemetery Commission Representative
Stephen Kidder	McLean Hospital Appointee
Michele Gougeon	McLean Hospital Appointee
Andy Healy	McLean Hospital Appointee
Lauren Meier	Belmont Citizen Appointee
Richard Pichette	Historic District Appointee
Mike Flamang	Conservation Commission Appointee

Member Absent: Frank Keefe

Others Present: ~ Tim Higgins, Office of Community Development, Magnus Snorrason – NEMBA, ~Elizabeth Allison, Lucille Kooyoomjian - Belmont Day School and Joe Hibbard.

1. 7:10 p.m. Meeting Convened by Chairman Ellen O'Brien Cushman.

The Committee unanimously approved minutes for February 11, 2003.

2. Committee Organization Review

Ellen O'Brien Cushman noted that there is discussion in Town proposing that the Cemetery Commission be an appointed board, no longer elected. She does not yet know the outcome but expressed the possibility that she may no longer serve on an appointed Cemetery Commission. Since she serves as the representative of the Cemetery Commission, she informed the LMC of this possibility.

Ellen asked if any other member would like to serve as Chairman. There being none, there was a unanimous vote of support for Ellen to continue to serve as chairman of the Committee.

3. Update, North Meadow

Not a lot of change since last meeting. Joel Mooney sent an e-mail to Tim who has forwarded it to Weston & Sampson (Town's consultant). There is no formal reply yet.

Zone 1A buffer – Northland has scheduled a meeting on March 20, 2003 at 7:30 a.m. with Tim, Robert Gallant, Joe Hibbard and Ellen O'Brien Cushman. The planting of the buffer in Zone 1A will be discussed.

4. Update Telecommunication Facility

One vendor replied to the Town's Request For Proposal (RFP) – Tower Ventures II. They cannot find an adequate number of cell vendors to make enough money to satisfy the Town's need for revenue. The project may need to go back to repeat the RFP process. Mel Kleckner and Tim Higgins will meet with Town Counsel and get opinion for a new

RFP with slightly different wording. The Land Management Committee had originally based the limitation on the number of commercial vendors (at 3) on visual impacts. In reality the number of vendors can be increased without the need for more than three arrays. The RFP may be sent out with this significant change. The Committee understands the need for the change and agreed to support it.

5. Update, Conservation Restriction

Tim Higgins sent out the revised Conservation Restrictions B1 and B2 to Joel Lerner on March 3, 2003. Wes Ward indicated to Tim Higgins that Counsel for Environmental Affairs understood the changes in the CR's. Wes Ward and Attorney Greg Bialecki will work with Mr. Lerner at EOEA. Tim Higgins hopes to have something back to the LMC by next meeting. The LMC and Town Counsel would then have to determine if the changes have to go to a spring Town Meeting again.

6. LMC Goals and Objectives

Draft III of the Goals and Objectives were discussed. Several changes were made (copy attached) and the Committee will review them at its next meeting.

7. Land Management Issues

Discussion commenced on the "Land Management Issues" document (last revised 2/21/03). It was agreed that the document would not be approved per se, but would be a working document. An introductory paragraph will be included so the issue can be placed in proper context and prospective. (Ellen and Tim will work on this for next meeting).

Lucille Kooyoomjian, Belmont Day School representative, stated that the School does not want the School or access points to the open space from its property identified on any maps. Safety of their children is their major concern. The school does not want strangers to use the parking lots for parking either. It is acceptable for neighbors to use the paths but not for outside groups.

8. Land Manager

Discussion followed regarding a Land Manager. The next steps were considered but it is clear that the Town does not have the resources for it to be a paid position. Therefore, there should be a working assumption that any projects/goals should include a more conservative planning approach. The Committee agreed to this working assumption.

9. Trail System

The trail system and the potential uses were then discussed. There is still the issue of bicycle use to be resolved. After a lengthy discussion, it was agreed that the Committee needs to begin to address this issue at its next meeting. Tim Higgins will provide a copy of the best trail maps for each of the Committee members to review prior to the meeting.

The Committee decided to arrange a walk of the trail system before this discussion. Andy Healy will propose a couple of dates and times when the trails are in usable condition. Andy will arrange this activity and T Higgins will notify the members.

The Committee unanimously decided not to hold an April Meeting due to the elections and Town Meetings. However, should an issue arise which requires immediate attention, an April meeting could be scheduled.

9:25 p.m. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.