

LAND MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING
May 20, 2003 Minutes
@ Town Hall

Members Present:

Ellen O'Brien Cushman	Chairman, Belmont Cemetery Commission Appointee
Stephen Kidder	McLean Hospital Appointee
Lauren Meier	Belmont Citizen Appointee
Michele Gougeon	McLean Hospital Appointee
Andy Healy	McLean Hospital Appointee

Member Absent:

Mike Flamang	Belmont Conservation Commission Appointee
Richard Pichette	Belmont Historic District Appointee
Frank Keefe	McLean Hospital Appointee

Others Present:

Tim Higgins, Office of Community Development, Magnus Snorrason, Tom Grumble – NEMBA, Wes Ward – TTOR, Kit Dreier - JRF Fund, Bob Gallant – Implementation Committee

7:10 p.m. There being a quorum, Chairman Ellen O'Brien Cushman opened the meeting.

- Minutes were approved for March 11, 2003 and April 28, 2003 without changes.
- Discussion ensued regarding the trail walk for Committee members. The dates of June 2, 4 or 12 will be checked for availability of those members not present. The walk will be intended to re-familiarize Committee members with state of trails in order to facilitate decisions regarding future trail use. Andy Healy will serve as tour guide and photographer. Other photography will not be permitted on the private grounds.

North Meadow Update:

The town's consultant, Weston and Sampson has agreed with East Coast Engineering (McLean's consultant) on a plan to determine the future of the remaining piles. Test pits were done last Friday and the experts are waiting for analytic results. Results probably will come in within next several weeks.

Telecommunications Tower Update:

The Town has sent out a second RFP and received only 1 bid. However, the Proposal includes a significantly higher financial return to the Town. Tower Ventures II out of Providence was the vendor and they have been formally notified. Probably will have 4-5 week process for negotiating a lease.

After a lease is signed, the Town will move with the vendor to obtain the necessary permits and approvals. Tim Higgins anticipates plans will be reviewed first at LMC and

then to the Zoning Board of Appeals. Estimate by the vendor is 120 days from final approvals till they can be up and operating.

Water Line Trail Restoration:

Water line work has been completed. Brush piles remain that have to be removed. The Conservation Committee sent a letter dated May 8 supporting the use of woodchips (from the brush chipping) on the trail, but plans are changing. The trail has been hydro-seeded and the brush will be chipped and spread into the woods. The rocks will be removed for future cemetery use and will be temporarily stored near the old trail access through the stonewall by the Pine Allee. Work still needs to be done because delivery of vaults for water meters are not expected until the week of June 3.

A suggestion was made to chip and spread them on the Pine Allee, but there are not enough chips to make a difference.

Questions arose on the further reseeding of North Meadow. A decision was made to wait and see whether the seeding done last year might still take this season.

Conservation Restriction:

A memorandum was sent to the Board of Selectmen from Tim Higgins & Ellen but no decision has been received from the Selectmen.

It was also reported that Arthur Katz had a conversation with Joel Lerner concerning his problem with the cemetery CR. Mr. Lerner said he was only enforcing the law since the law requires that perpetual restriction may be changed only with approval of Secretary of EOEA. Steve Kidder reported that the Restriction as it applies to cemetery land, would establish release process and therefore secretary should not have a problem with it, it's not a change. Wes Ward reported that he never foresaw this would be a problem with Environmental Affairs. He also noted that (attorney) Greg Bialecki agreed with this position. It was decided that Tim and Ellen should continue to press the Selectmen to issue a letter to Secretary of Environmental Affairs and attempt to set a meeting.

Screening and Buffering of Zone 1A:

T. Higgins presented a draft planting scheme received late today from Northland Residential Development, Corp. Should they build chain link fence to include new planting area? The fence would be in the open space area. A brief discussion occurred but no decision made. S. Kidder noted that a meeting needs to be held between McLean and Northland as this issue is new to McLean.

It was agreed that the next regular meeting would be June 16th at 6:30 p.m. to 7:15 p.m. This is the night of the Town Meeting. T. Higgins will also finalize the site walk date after commentary from the members.

8:10 p.m. There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.