

APPROVED

Meeting called to order: 7:05 PM by CoChair Kathy Baskin

Attendance: Commissioners Kathleen Baskin, Margaret Velie, Miriam Weil, Nancy Davis, Martha Moore, Joe Curro, Carolyn Bishop; Associates Stew Sanders, Monica King, left early, and Ruth Foster, came late, left early

Town Engineer Glenn Clancy, Charles G. Sodini, Belmont Country Club applicants: Scott Morrison, Ecotec, Kelly Cardoza, Avalon, Matt Brassard, Engineer, Belmont Country Club Rep Larry Uchill, Rich and Robin Levandov, 40 Howells Rd, Nicole Hayes, Sanford Ecological Ellen Mass, Friends of Alewife came at 9:30 PM

Resident Charles Sodini, 37 Larch Circle: A huge willow tree fell on DCR property last spring. With application for removal from DCR expected in February Conservation Commission voted to grant approval as Negative Determination of Applicability with conditions for guidance to DCR. Matt Thurlo and Dave Lenhart from DCR viewed the site. Boy Scouts when building the animal shelter on the shore used branches from the downed willow to cover the shelter. Stew Sanders reported that the dock was burned by vandals, the headwall of the culvert is cracked and the fencing has been destroyed and needs removing. Emergency provisions 10.06 of Wetlands Protection Act include concerns: health and safety, limits to work, involvement of a Commonwealth agency, site visit (done by Glenn). DCR letter reports that they would only remove the tree from the fence/property line over. M. Weil moved to issue an emergency certification for the tree removal for public safety concerns and with seasonal deadlines. Order of Conditions will include siltation control to protect pond, covering and removal of excavate, restoration of the hole and replanting, work done while ground frozen to minimize rutting. To minimize impact to other trees in the buffer, the Conservation Commission requests removal of entire tree via access from DCR property. K Baskin abstained due to her position in Commonwealth government. Conservation Commission via Glenn Clancy will issue Emergency Certification letter to resident and DCR.

Belmont Country Club 181 Winter Street: Notice of Intent Public Hearing continued: opened at 7:35 PM Proposal to deal with sedimentation of Clematis Brook. Sources of sediment seem to be from the roadway maintenance in the watershed and erosion of the banks of the stream. Proposal to armor the banks to minimize erosion using two methods: riprap and gravel on filtration fabric and turf stabilization mats where the bank can be sloped. To slow down and promote deposition of sediment for easier maintenance, the proposal includes the building of an oxbow in upland area, with two access points for sediment removal with small machinery. Current removal is more labor intensive with mats, dredging and more impact to downstream wetlands. Also plan to remove tall netting and replace it with horizontal netting, seasonally in place two feet above the ground, to keep balls out of the stream. Questions from commissioners: K Baskin inquired about alternatives to the oxbow. A 6 inch wide concrete structure could be installed to allow base flow with a diversion to the oxbow at high flow. The oxbow would then be dry except at rain events. Stream has never been observed to dry up. Joe Curro asked if the creation of the oxbow expands the riverfront into the Woodfall Road property. Structure impacts bank and land under water with a 5:1 replacement of bank with the oxbow construction. Impact limited to ten percent of the bank. The culvert that exists goes

under the driving range and exits across Country Club Lane, Winter Street and then returns to daylight at the Snack Bar and broadens into a wetland. Peg Velie inquired about source of sediment possibly from culverted Prentiss Brook. Is there a way to capture sediment before it enters the brook? G Clancy reports that it is a contained system up into Arlington as far as the playground past Dow Ave. Manufactured methods of removing silt from storm flow would have to be enormous.

Second issue of concern: armoring the stream banks versus permanent turf matting with vegetation. It appears that there is a "pulse" in the flow in the spring and K. Cardoza observes that much of the sediment appears to be street sand, much pavement in watershed with large culverts. Can do turfing on the oxbow with an estimate of less than 20% armored with riprap for the project. Belmont Country Club spoke in favor of natural bank support. With expansion of the Riverfront, Woodfall Road construction would not be impacted for three years but after that the development of the riverfront would impact further construction. Disclosure would be necessary to developer/homeowners.

Gail Koch, abutter: would creation of new riverfront affect existing homes?. K. Baskin: it would affect any parcel 200 ft from high water mark, no existing homes impacted.

Deliberation: Davis: recommended bank stabilization first to see if this solves the sedimentation problem. Velie: recommended an investigate source of sediment, street sweeping, catch basin cleaning combined in first phase.. J Curro opined that project should work. M Moore: important to determine source of sediment. L. Uchill reported that study was done re. sediment. BVW on club side of bank is turfed C Bishop suggested that oxbow be placed on Club side or redesigned to extend less into opposite side. K Baskin: assume that the oxbow is riverfront. Placing oxbow in the turfed BVW, a dredge and fill project, would not meet acceptable requirement for 401 certificate under Water Quality standards. M Weil moved that the Conservation Commission approve the project and issue an order of conditions G. Clancy felt confident that he was representing the Town in approving the project. Votes: 5 aye, 2 abstentions. Approved.

Order of Conditions to be issued: as per Notice of Intent and site plan details including work at low flow, sediment control, remove excavate as soon as possible, cover until removed, maximize use of vegetated turf reinforcement mats for erosion control, minimal riprap, use silt barrier in stream during construction, protect BVW and wetlands with fibre rolls or siltation fabric which must be cleaned and maintained during construction, maintain right of entry for the Commission. Hearing closed at 9:00 PM

Glenn Clancy entered into record a letter from Elissa Grad on construction noise at the Belmont Country Club and requesting compliance with the Noise By-Law.

Hearing for 30 Howells Rd was opened and continued: Abutters at 40 Howells Rd present. Applicants were not present. Abutters are concerned about runoff issues, wildlife habitat issues in second 100 feet of riverfront. Flooding in the basement already and backyard sheet flows during rain. Brook seems to have been rerouted. Concerns about grading, alternatives, loss of large trees for new construction, loss of vista and scenic character of neighborhood. Nicole

Hayes: Increased impact to riverfront without alternatives analysis, impact on runoff, wildlife habitat. Inadequate information submitted to the Commission and plans impossible to read.

Old Business:

Open Space Plan: Stew reported on Open Space plan using an agency in Manomet to improve plans, will contact Jeff Wheeler and volunteered to lead effort. Assistant Town Administrator: Jeff Conti investigating an internship with local colleges who might help.

Annual Report is due: written by Chairs to include list of Notices, Orders etc. Chairs will seek ideas from Commissioners and refer to past reports. None was written last year.

Singular Cell Tower at First Armenian Church, 380 Concord Avenue, requires a spiral staircase for access. Request for Determination will be required.

Brookside Avenue: Order of Conditions issued in 1988, Salvatore Crimaldi. Foundation is in ground, building is framed and he is seeking to finish inside work. If he has been in compliance as per a site visit, then a Certificate of Compliance can be issued.

Muskrat Marsh Letter: The Muskrat Marsh Team is working to improve the wetlands in the western marsh along Acorn Park Drive. Currently there is a feasibility study of water flow with gauges under way. Stew Sanders is representing Belmont. Documentation and scope and objectives of work requested for review by the Commission so that a more detailed letter of support can be issued.

Uplands 40B Filing: ZBA will be looking for the Conservation Commission to comment on the filing in addition to a formal filing for the Commission since the initial filing was for a commercial project. Plans submitted for a 299 unit 40B proposal. Hearing with ZBA is tomorrow, January 11, 2006. Important to scrutinize the plans to see what issues are pertinent. Delineation as accepted for previous Notice of Intent will be in effect until 2007.

Rock Meadow Budget Request: should be operating item and is in the part of the budget which might be cut. Budget hearing with Board of Selectmen might be on Saturday February 4, 2006. Without an override, all the cuts will be made to the Office of Community Development budget including possible cuts in employees. Glenn will notify Commissioners of budget hearing date and time.

Wetlands Bylaw: Comparison handed out, draft had been emailed. Support of the Commission is necessary and it is hoped Commissioners will become familiar with the draft so that they can help in public education. Meeting scheduled for the Conservation Commission to discuss the proposal: Wednesday January 18th at 6:30 PM, location to be announced. Glenn will post.

February 7th: Public Hearings: Brookside Avenue proposed addition., possible Oliver Rd, possible continued 30 Howells Rd hearing. Minutes of Dec 6, 2005 to be approved at next meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 10:30 PM
Amended February 8, 2006

Submitted by C. Bishop