

## **MINUTES Belmont Conservation Commission Meeting**

Minutes of November 10, 2009 at Room 2 Town Hall at 7:00 P.M.

**Attendance:** Chair: Miriam Weil, Vice-Chair: Martha Moore; Members: Margaret Velie; Nancy Davis; Tino Lichauco; David Webster; Jim Roth. Associates: Barbara Gardner; Jeffrey North. Agent: Mary Trudeau.

1. Glenn Clancy, Director of Community Development, Town Engineer
2. Liz Shaw, citizen
3. Stephanie Liu, 49 Oliver Road
4. Stanley Dzierzeski, 74 Statler Road
5. Ellen Mass, 104 A Inman St. Cambridge
6. William August, Esq. 19 Lawrence St., Cambridge

### **Review Minutes of October 6, 2009:**

Miriam Weil moved that the Commission approve the minutes of the October 6 meeting. David Webster seconded, and the vote was unanimous (7)

### **Conflict of Interest - Ethics Review forms:**

Mary Trudeau distributed the forms and explained to Commissioners that it is their responsibility to attend the ethics training and sign the appropriate state mandated forms.

### **Belmont Manor Issue DEP File 106-071:**

Mary Trudeau discussed the Belmont Manor project, noting that a letter from the applicant's design engineer (BSC Group) was sent to the Commission describing deviations from the approved site plan. The letter noted that there had been changes to the stormwater management system, including the addition of additional drainage structures within the parking area. She noted that these changes were not permitted under the Order of Conditions issued for the file. Ms Trudeau suggested that the remedy for this situation is to request the applicant to retroactively file a Notice of Intent for the illicit work, or for the Commission to issue an Enforcement Action requiring this type of filing. Ms Trudeau noted that the work must be reviewed by the Commission and approved before Certificate of Compliance can be issued. Jim Roth moved that the Commission prepare an enforcement action in case the Notice of Intent filing is not received by December 1, 2009. The motion was seconded by Nancy Davis and the vote was unanimous.

### **Woodbine Road, Notice of Intent for Pump Station Replacement DEP File 106-98:**

Glenn Clancy, representing the Office of Community Development, stated that a Notice of Intent had been filed for the replacement of the existing subsurface sewage lift station,

located within Woodbine Road. Mr Clancy presented diagrams and an explanation of the work involved in the sewer pump station replacement at the Woodbine road site, noting that some of the work is within 100 foot buffer zone to a downgradient Bordering Vegetated Wetland. He noted that mitigation included the use of straw bales at the limit of work line, and that a dewatering strategy had been included in the filing. Mr Clancy noted that the Project expected to last 10 weeks, with the starting date uncertain. Mr Clancy also noted that portions of the project were to be funded by DEP and Federal Stimulus monies. Jim Roth moved that the Commission issue an Order of Conditions with the Town of Belmont standard Conditions, the motion was seconded by David Webster, and the vote was unanimous in support of the motion.

### **Daylighting Streams:**

Miriam asked Glenn Clancy about streams that might be suitable for “daylighting. Glenn Clancy agreed to think about potential locations and to send suggestions, if any, to the Commission.

### **MBTA Fitchburg Line RFD for work on Rail line (POSTPONED UNTIL DEC 1, 2009):**

### **Rock Meadow Sheep Project Discussion:**

Liz Shaw proposes to introduce sheep reclamation and maintenance of pasture land at Rock Meadow. Ms Shaw provided several pages of ideas on the topic, noting that the concept was preliminary and would need refinement. Specifically, she noted that:

- Grazing of goats could defray mowing costs of \$3800 -\$5,000 per year.
- Goats need permanent pen and run-in shed to be housed at night.
- Herds would be moved throughout meadow using flex electric fence.
- Use of the McLean brick building for hay storage might be desirable.
- Grazing can be done on a rotational basis to accommodate bird nesting periods.
- Is a Conservation Restriction on the Rock Meadow Property? And does the Commission want a Conservation Restriction?
- Security is a primary concern
- A special permit from the Zoning Board of Appeals would be required for the project.
- A discussion with the local Board of Health would be advisable early in the investigations.

The Commission discussed the concept and agreed to further explore the grazing concept. The Commission noted that Miriam Weil would be the contact person assigned to work with Ms Shaw in exploring the potential of using grazing within Rock Meadow.

### **Results of Town Wide Service Work Days at Rock Meadow on October 12, 2009:**

- David Webster, Nancy Davis, Jim Roth, Miriam Weil and Barbara Gardner discussed the success of the work day, noting that it was a well organized and productive day with approximately 40 volunteers working at Rock Meadow.
- David Webster noted that there was some material left in the meadow for the DPW to remove. Mary Trudeau noted that she had discussed the piles with Peter Castinino and that he would remove them later this fall.

### **Rock Meadow Field Restoration work proposed (Heritage Meadows, Fleet)**

The Commission discussed the restoration of the south east corner of the meadow, and the restoration of the area immediately to the east of the Community Gardens. Ms Trudeau noted that she had received proposals from both Heritage Meadows and Fleet, and that after discussions with Peter Castinino, she was inclined to use Fleet. The work is to be contracted at an approximate cost of \$5000.00 (to be paid from the Garden Account) and noted that Fleet and the Belmont Public Works department will work cooperatively to restore the areas of concern. Ms Trudeau noted that Peter Castinino has agreed to assist in the management of the contractors.

### **Open Space Plan Update – Comprehensive Master Plan (CMP):**

The Commission discussed the progress of the Open Space portion of the CMP.

- Daylighting of streams, and potential locations for this activity were discussed and maps consulted.
- The Commission generally agreed to explore the possibilities of daylighting certain streams.

### **Rock Meadow Mapping brochure text:**

- Mary and Jim to meet with Joe Finn to discuss his management program. Mary will schedule a walk with Joe Finn.
- Mary would like comments on the text, will re-send to BCC

### **UPLANDS (DEP 106-0072) update:**

Stanley Dzierzeski, Ellen Mass, William August and Stephanie Liu were participants in this discussion with the Commission.

- Commissioners discussed their uncertainty concerning the upcoming decision from the Department of Environmental Protection.
- Coalition for Alewife Brook Reservation (ie “the interveners”) were present and interested to know if the ConCom would assist with an appeal, should that become a next step. William August noted that the appeal of an approval would be an affirmation of the Commission’s original decision.
- Mr August noted that there is some hope for a Bill for State to buy the property
- The Commission noted that after a decision, the Commission will have only 30 days to appeal, and that the Selectman must approve and fund any such appeal.
- William August distributed material (Globe article) on revised flood plains, another argument for appeal. He and the interveners urged the Commission not to give up the case.
- The Commission discussed whether the Selectmen would be likely to fund any further initiatives on this project. Tino Lichauco, David Webster and Margaret Velie

agreed to pursue this issue. David Webster will ask to get on the agenda of the Selectmen's meeting and advise the Commission on the resulting discussions.

**The Meeting was adjourned at 9:45 pm**