

BELMONT CONSERVATION COMMISSION  
MEETING MINUTES

November 5, 2002

Members Present: M. Flamang, K. Baskin, J. Curro, M. Weil, R. Foster, J. Smith.  
Associate Members Present: M. Velie.

Additional Attendees: Glenn Clancy (Belmont Office of Community Development).

The meeting was called to order at 7:08 p.m.

Minutes

The minutes for the meeting of October 1, 2002, were submitted for approval, and accepted in the form submitted.

Proposed List of Conditions

M. Flamang reported that he has received some comments and will finalize the list of conditions, incorporating the comments. The list will then be distributed to all members and used as a template for orders of conditions issued by the Commission.

Old Business - Update on Use and Management Plan

Flamang distributed a revised draft of the use and management plan for review by the Commission.

He has been asked to speak at the Belmont Citizens forum on November 21 and would like to have another member or associate member come to the meeting as well. He took pictures at Rock Meadow and will show slides and a map. They want to discuss allowing dogs to run free at Rock Meadow but he has told them that he could not discuss that specifically. He will tell them that it is under consideration by the Commission. The draft use and management plan includes the estimated cost of providing an area for dogs.

The McLean open space is governed by its own rules, which are more stringent.

Old Business - Mowing at Rock Meadow

Flamang estimated that it would cost \$8,000 to clear out the saplings at the edge of the Meadow, \$4,000 for a one-time cleanup and \$2,000 annually thereafter. We should request funds from the Town for that. G. Clancy suggested that we present a five-year plan to the Town. There was discussion of whether a five-year period might be too long. Will we have to go back and ask for more money within the five years?

M. Weil pointed out that Cambridge Landscaping couldn't estimate the cost for us because it's so rocky. Could we get volunteers to pull up saplings? That could occur annually. The Commission would have to train and supervise the volunteers. Habitat has a groundsman named Bruce Wenning who does that for them. Does the Town have someone who could do the same for the Commission?

R. Foster suggested that Habitat may be willing to lend Bruce and their volunteers if they thought they would get rid of the dogs at Habitat. M. Flamang said the tree warden would be willing to put herbicide on the cut stumps once we have had the work done.

G. Clancy suggested that we might be more successful in getting money for the town if we ask for smaller amounts, not all \$8,000 at once. K. Baskin suggested that we could generate revenues by charging for dog use and also perhaps by getting trail-clearing grants.

There was further discussion of funding. Should non-residents be charged more than residents? How would we enforce the dog use permits? The animal control officer would enforce the requirement.

M. Weil will propose a mowing plan for inclusion in the Use and Management Plan. M. Flamang will sit down with Mel Kleckner to discuss submitting a proposal.

#### Old Business - Update on Certificate of Compliance -82/84 Agassiz Avenue

The DEP issued the Order of Conditions, not the Commission. That Order of Conditions included requirements for a certification by a professional engineer and as-built plans, both showing that the work was done in compliance with the conditions. Neither was submitted. G. Clancy has told the owners' attorney that those are needed before the Certificate of Compliance can be issued. In fact, the DEP may have to issue the Certificate of Compliance; G. Clancy will inquire about that.

#### Old Business - Update on Catch Basin Stenciling Program

G. Clancy showed a few Chenery Middle School students where to stencil catch basins in the Middle School area. If this small area goes well, we will expand the plan. M. Weil reported that the coordinators of the Belmont High School community service program and the Chenery Middle School community service program are interested.

#### Other Old Business

The reason the Rock Meadow sign at Mill Street has fallen down is that the posts have rotted. R. Foster offered her red cedar posts, (2) 6feet and (1) 7 feet long. That may be too short, but she will measure them.

#### New Business - Vegetation Cutting Along Little Pond

The cutting of trees occurred at the rear of 15 Sandrick Road. G. Clancy suggested that the owner be brought in and told that he should not have done the cutting, and particularly, that he cannot try to remove the stumps. M. Velie said she thinks that is MDC property along the bank of the pond. R. Foster thinks that the MDC property ends before that part of the bank. There was a discussion as to whether that is in a buffer zone or in a resource area.

R. Foster has offered to draw up guidelines for adoption by the Commission so that we can provide for enforcement.

M. Flamang will write a letter on behalf of the Commission, asking the owner to meet with the Commission and explain what he did, why he did it, and what he intends to do in the future, as well as what he intends to do to remedy the situation.

### New Business - Proposed Tree Cutting at 139 Juniper Road

The owner proposed cutting some trees. Hartney Graymount will do the work. It's planned for the winter months so that the ground will be minimally disturbed. The trees are dead or dying. The Commission discussed whether the owner should be required to file a request for determination, and if so, whether it should be required for the buffer zone and the wetland, or just for the wetland.

G. Clancy will notify all property owners who could be impacted when we adopt the tree removal guidelines. Should we regulate the removal of trees or the manner of removal, or both?

### Other New Business

Meetings for next year: it is possible that we will be able to meet at Town Hall.

There has been a memorial bench installed at Clay Pit Pond, in memory of Ted Hennessy, who was killed in the September 11, 2001 attacks. His father wants to be able to maintain it by clearing the area. R. Foster pointed out that vista clearing is permitted, as long as it doesn't destabilize the bank of the pond. However, clearing may enable the ducks and geese to come up out of the pond. If the vegetation is maintained at a height of at least 2.5 feet, the geese won't come up out of the pond and the area won't be disturbed. M. Flamang will send a letter specifying that clearing can be done in accordance with those requirements, and asking him to notify G. Clancy whenever such cutting is done.

The meeting was then adjourned at 8:25 p.m. The next meeting will be held at the Faculty Dining Room at Chenery Middle School on Tuesday, December 3, 2002.

Prepared by:  
Johanna Smith