

**APPROVED**

**Attendance:** Commissioners Davis, Moore, Weil, Smith, Associate Commissioners Velie, Sanders, Bishop, Director of Office of Community Development Glenn Clancy, Presenters: Roger Westcott, Joe Finn, Roger Wrubel, Observer: Darrell King

**Minutes:** None presented

**Bird Houses:** Joe Finn was present to address concerns expressed by a citizen at the Environmental Fair about management of the Rock Meadow bird houses. He assured the Commission he does not manage tree swallows, holds a number of patents on devices to benefit swallows and only removes inactive nests to benefit the swallows and bluebirds. During the past years he reports two nesting pairs of bluebirds and 7-10 nesting tree swallows. He removed the houses at Clay Pit because they were difficult to maintain. Would like to put some in on metal poles in an open grassy area there for easier maintenance but they might be more vulnerable to vandalism.

**Clay Pit Pond Restoration:** Glenn put work out to bid, one company responded at \$36,000 and it was decided work could be done by DPW employees. Sites were noted on a map by Mike Flamang after a walk of the site with Joel Mooney and C. Bishop, however it appears that several areas were missed. Coir rolls have been installed at the sites noted on the map, backfilled with loam which is eroding into the pond since no stabilization mats were ordered. Rick Bemis, DPW employee in charge of the area put down hay to slow erosion but more work is needed. The coir rolls do not butt up against the bank allowing erosion at the ends. Most of the plants ordered died before they could be installed. Therefore additional work needs to be done in the spring with wetland seed mix already on hand spread, additional plants ordered and installed and further coir rolls, mats and further erosion prevention efforts to restore the areas cleaned in the oil spill cleanup. Glenn will check with Joyce Munro on financing and further work. Mike Flamang will be consulted for approval of work in additional areas not on original map.

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**Wetland By-Law:** Nancy Davis presented a draft of the recent history and purpose of the by-law. Peg Velie wrote an article on the subject in the recent Citizen's Forum Newsletter. Martha Moore reported on the recent subcommittee meetings of 10/13 and 10/26. Johanna Smith will do some research, and a timeline was discussed to see if public education and approval could come in time for the April '05 Town Meeting. Glenn will check with Joyce Munro to see if the new counsel firm would be available to be involved at some point. It was pointed out that the Town already has a floodplain zoning by-law, General Laws 6.6 with an overlay of the flood plain district based on previous FEMA figures. The subcommittee will meet next on Monday November 15 at 7:30 pm in Chenery Community Room

**Habitat Determination of Applicability Hearing:** Proposal: Bittersweet removal within the buffer near Turtle pond with foliar spray Rodeo (Glyphosate). Treatment area located is within 10 to 30 feet of the pond edge. After treatment the plan is to replant with native plants such as spice bush, high bush blueberry and cranberry. Area has been mowed and now plants are too numerous to pull or to treat stalks. Weedcloth has been used to smother the plants in nearby area however this prevents anything from growing. Nancy Davis recommended from MACC workshop the use of mats and the planting of saplings to shade further growth. Concern was expressed about the stand of mature bittersweet on the other side of the pond. There is no plan for control in this area. Stew Sanders recommended a monitoring of existing edge plants pre and post treatment for effectiveness and control of application.

Miriam Weil moved to issue a negative Determination of Applicability with conditions: to monitor pre/post shore vegetation, application by licensed applicator on a windless day, work completed by July 2005, native vegetation planted to restore area. Unanimous approval.

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**647 Concord Avenue:** Barber house. It was reported that the berm installed to prevent erosion has soil piled on top of it which is flowing into the wetland, especially during de-watering. G. Clancy will investigate.

**Former Needham property:** 275 Somerset Street: trees flagged, wetland on property, possible tying into sewer. G. Clancy to investigate.

**McLean Property:** Rich Westcott, engineer for McLean and Northland Development requested three year extensions of 4 Orders of Conditions including the water main work which is 98% complete up to a meter pit. The next phase requires a new contract which has not been let yet. The Water main O/C is due to expire March 20, 2005. The other three O/C apply to the housing units in the buffer zone, Zones 1A, 1B and 2. Paperwork to be signed, easement hearings, land transferred: all pending. Northland is beginning to stake out protective fencing to preserve the trees. The road crossing is a separate Order not expiring until 6/2006. C. Bishop brought up concerns about lead chromate in orange construction fencing. R. Westcott willing not to use that product and will investigate further.

After discussion about the pros and cons of extension the CC voted unanimously to extend the water project O/C for 18 months until September 20, 2006 and the three housing O/Cs for two years until December 11, 2006.

**Rock Meadow:**

**Mowing:** Dante Muzzioli's company mowed the meadow again and the contractor got stuck in the wetland again. Perhaps the area should be flagged. Not enough sumac is getting mowed and the need for better maintenance was discussed. Bruce Wenning of Habitat recommended Sinclair Weeks or Randy Eisenhower of Acton. M. Moore spoke for the Judy Record Fund and the potential need for a heavy duty mower for maintaining the McLean meadow (which has not been maintained in the past few years) and perhaps some kind of cooperative maintenance venture could be arranged in the future. The CC budget for mowing is only \$1100.

**Regulations:** The Town meeting passed the necessary by-law for the CC to promulgate and enforce regulations for Rock Meadow. A list of regulations may need to be sent to the police and John Maguranis to clarify the CC expectations. J. Smith will send to the police.

**Management Plan:** old plan issued to Commissioners for the revision and finalization that is needed in order to request funding from the Town for maintenance and restoration.

**Certificate of Compliance:** 80 Clifton Street. Driveway from Fletcher Road has been removed. Trench drains from driveway to dry wells will be checked by G. Clancy. One tree in the horseshoe delta in front was damaged and removed. Commissioners signed C/C and it will be issued once Glenn has checked the project.

**Officers:** Since Michael Flamang will be out of town for several months this winter, J. Smith volunteered to act as temporary acting chair. An annual reorganization meeting usually held after appointments in June will need to be held.

**Belmont Country Club:** Due to concern over a possible lack of quorum, the BCC Notice of Intent hearing is postponed until the December 7th meeting. Meanwhile, Glenn will try to arrange a site visit for the Commission.

Meeting adjourned at 10:05 PM. Next meeting: December 7th, 2004 C. Bishop

12/7/04 *approved*