

## **MINUTES Belmont Conservation Commission Meeting**

Minutes of December 1, 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; Associates: Barbara Gardner; Jeffrey North. Agent: Mary Trudeau.

1. Paul Finger, Belmont Manor
2. Michael Turgeon, Jacobs Engineering

### **Review Minutes of November 10, 2009:**

Margaret Velie moved that the Commission approve the minutes, as amended, of the November 10 meeting. Tino Lichauco seconded, and the vote was unanimous (7).

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

Mr. Finger was present at the meeting to deliver the Notice of Intent filing for the Belmont Manor project. The filing was required as the approved site plan had been modified without approval of the Conservation Commission. This item will be addressed at the January 5, 2010 meeting.

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

Miriam Weil gave an update on the sheep discussion from last meeting with Liz Shaw, who is interested in introducing sheep or goat herds for reclamation and maintenance of pasture land at Rock Meadow. Ms Weil noted that:

- Miriam Weil met with Liz Shaw, who is gathering cost and related information on the feasibility of the project.
- Ms Weil noted that there was a possible field trip to similar project at a Cape site would allow Commission to view the proposed activity and impacts to a field area.
- Miriam Well noted that she had discussed the idea with John Maguranis, Animal Control Officer, who expressed concern about shelter requirements.
- Need to clarify if Ms. Shaw proposes keeping sheep and goats or both.
- There was concern with the potential for sheep and goats to act as vectors for ticks, particularly deer ticks. Miriam Weil will investigate and clarify for the Commission.

Ms Weil noted that the fact-finding and investigation will continue, and that the Commission will continue to review and evaluate the potential for this type of project at Rock Meadow.

### **Open Space Plan Update – Comprehensive Master Plan:**

The Commission discussed the draft of the Open Space Plan distributed by Martha Moore. Discussion of the draft included comments on the following items:

- Daylighting of streams is mentioned, although no locations are specified.
- Wetlands by-law passage is recommended in the Open Space Plan.
- There was a comment concerning landscaping practices on side yards. David Webster, Tino Lichauco and Nancy Davis discussed 1/8 acre zoning vs. large property / lawn questions and the relevant interpretation in the Plan.

A public meeting will be held on December 17<sup>th</sup> for public discussion and input. Miriam Weil urged Commissioners to study the document. If any Commissioners would like to add wording or suggestions, they should send comments to Miriam Weil, who will relay same to Jennie Fallon.

**MBTA Fitchburg Line RFD for work on Rail line:**

Mr. Michael Turgeon from Jacobs Engineering presented the project plan for the MBTA work on the right of way. While the work proposed by the MBTA is for the entire length of the rail line in Belmont, only a small portion of the project is jurisdictional. Work includes:

- Fiber optic cable installation on north side of tracks in a plough-in process using specialized machinery. David Webster asked if there would be any coordination with Belmont Municipal Light for any cable installation that could be done at the same time.
- Mike Turgeon noted that all alignment and rail repair work will be done within the existing rail bed.
- Minor demolition (removal of track and ties) near the river edge related to the realignment work proposed, again all work is substantially within the existing rail bed.
- Erosion control using hay bales would be incorporated in areas where there was the potential for sediment movement towards protectable wetland resource areas.
- Tino Lichauco surmised that the Commission is only potentially concerned about activity during construction; there appear to be no concerns pre- or post construction.

Mr. Turgeon stated that he is seeking a Negative Determination of Applicability (Negative II). Mary Trudeau mentioned a pre-construction meeting with review of erosion controls as a condition of the Negative Determination.

David Webster moved that the Commission issue a Negative II Determination with the mitigation provided in the plan and a pre-construction meeting with the CC agent to identify and review erosion controls. Tino Lichauco seconded the motion, to which all were in favor.

**Rock Meadow Mapping brochure text:**

Mary Trudeau handed out copies of the text, requested that Commissioners study the language, and she requested any comments be sent to her.

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

The Commission discussed the potential for continued appeals depending on the outcome of the hearings. David Webster, Margaret Veile and Tino Lichauco will continue to communicate about strategy for responses to various scenarios.

**Setting Meeting Dates for 2010 Conservation Commission Meetings:**

Dates selected for 2010 meetings are:

January 5  
February 2  
March 2  
April 6  
May 4  
June 1  
June 29  
July – no meeting  
August 3  
September 14  
October 5  
November 9  
December 7

**The Meeting was adjourned at 8:55 pm**