

BELMONT CONSERVATION COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

December 3, 2002

Members Present: M. Flamang (chairman), K. Baskin, R. Foster, M. King, and M. Weil

Associate Member: M. Velie

Belmont Office of Community Development CC Liaison: Glenn Clancy

Additional Attendees: Carolyn Bishop, Sue Bass, Barbara Passero, David and Sara Evans, Peter Castanino (Belmont Highway Dept.), Rich Levandor, and Richard Hickey

The minutes of the November 5, 2002 Conservation Commission meeting were approved with minor corrections.

Pleasant Street Reconstruction

Mr. Clancy updated members on the reconstruction of Pleasant Street. The CC resource area is at the intersection of Leonard and Pleasant St. The town's consultants recommended the following changes be added to "Special Conditions – Pleasant Street Reconstruction" (these are still a draft, but should be finalized in January)

Two manholes will be constructed in the Winn's Brook culvert on Pleasant Street.

They recommended that erosion control for the construction of the manholes be left in place until the first large flush of rain.

Under section D.2.iii "Sweeping of the adjacent paved roadways will be done on an as needed basis ...or at the discretion of the Conservation Commission or its agent... using a street...."

Rock Meadow Use and Management Plan

M. Flamang stated that the plan needed to be presented to the Selectmen in December. G. Clancy stated that the CC needs to make clear that it is a draft plan and that the vegetation control needs funding. The CC needs to be involved in the budget process. It was noted that the CC will begin to receive comments from the public once the plan is presented to the Selectmen. There was a suggestion to have the public meeting on the plan in January. The CC approved presenting the Draft Rock meadow Use and Management Plan to the Selectmen.

A citizen (Sue Bass) was concerned that the CC was acting fast to have public comment and approve a plan so quickly.....Discussion was suspended at 7:55 for a public hearing. Discussion resumed later in the meeting. Barbara Passaro presented a proposal for middle school students to collect water quality data and document natural resources at six sites in Rock Meadow. The CC endorsed her proposal. She requested that the CC be called a "partner" for grant writing purposes. The CC moved to be a "partner" with Ms. Passaro contingent upon checking with Mel Kleckner (Town Administrator) on the use of the word "partner".

Public Hearing – Request for Determination of Applicability - 139 Juniper Road

The homeowners stated that one butternut and three ash trees on their property need to be removed as two are dead and two are dying. Three of the trees are in the wetland resource area of Winn's Brook and one is within 100' of Winn's Brook. There was discussion on how the homeowners planned to remove the trees without damaging the brook or the wetland. Hartney Greymont would do the work. Ruth Foster stated that she had drafted conditions for removal of trees for homeowners.

The CC issued a negative Determination of Applicability with conditions.

Public Hearing – Abbreviated Notice of Intent – Clay Pit Pond Wall Repair

Peter Castanino, Superintendent of the Belmont Highway Department explained that settlement is occurring during significant rainfall behind the Clay Pit Pond retaining wall (just south of where Wellington Brook enters the pond). Water appears to be seeping out under the retaining wall washing out the soil during significant rainfall. To stabilize the area he proposed excavating below the existing concrete wall foundation and filling it with concrete (approx. 4' by 13').

Discussion followed and Mr. Castanino stated that he will use a stiff concrete that will displace the water in the pond, he is not concerned about the structural strength of the concrete but just it's ability to stop the seepage. He also stated that he would like to do the work when the temperature is greater than 40 degrees F and the water level is reasonably low. He will backfill the settled area with clean gravel up to 6" and then cover it with loam. Additionally he would only do the work when there is no forecast of rain, excavating, pouring the concrete, and then backfilling immediately.

The CC issued an Order of Conditions.

Tree Cutting/Vegetation Removal – 40 Howell's Road/20 Howell's Road – Richard Levandov, the property owner for both 40 and 20 Howell's Rd., explained that his property has both wetland and Riverfront "resource areas". He stated that two large ash trees were cut as well as a birch tree that had snapped and a number of small saplings that were probably Norway maples. Approximately thirteen logs were then left on end in a circle for use as seats, thus it may have appeared as if thirteen trees were cut. He also stated that he has planted 30-40 new trees.

The CC recommended that because of the unique nature of his property that before doing any landscaping work in the future it he should call Glenn Clancy in the Office of Community Development.

Tree Cutting/Vegetation Removal – 15 Sandrick Road – This property borders Little Pond. There was initial discussion of where the MDC's property line is. Richard Hickey, the property owner, stated that he moved to this property in October 2002, but

that the cutting occurred in August 2002 with the permission of the former owner. M. Flamang was concerned about erosion of the bank of Little Pond. M. Flamang requested a plot plan by a surveyor marking where the tree stumps are as well as the edge of Little Pond. Mr. Hickey stated that two trees that were cut were leaning into the water and that the other trees that were cut were close to the house, all additional cutting was of vines and brambles.

Old Business

Certificate of Compliance – 40 Howells Road

The final building permit was never issued for this project. It was moved that the members sign the Certificate of Compliance subject to Glenn determining that the conditions have been met.

New Business

Tree Removal/Vegetation Control – Ruth Foster has drafted conditions for tree removal and vegetation control for homeowners with wetlands, protected areas, and conservation lands. She asked members to comment on the conditions and also suggested the CC consider targeting specific homeowners in town.

2003 Meeting Schedule

Meeting dates for 2003 were discussed. See Attached schedule.