

Saturday December 4, 2004

Belmont Country Club Site Visit

APPROVED

In attendance: CC: Smith, Moore, Davis, Bishop, Viele, BCC: Project Manager Kelly Cardoza, Biologist Scott Morrison, Engineer Matt Broussard, Charles Gordon and Larry Bienapfl

History: established in 1909, expanded 1967-9 with construction in the wetland and ponds dug in area near Concord Avenue opposite Transfer site. Irrigation pond in Lexington to which water is pumped from surface and pond overflow. Belmont Springs located on site: stopped pumping from wells 1987

Ongoing project with annual notice to ConCom for dredging sand from Clematis Brook just at the Y intersection. (*Source of this sand needs to be investigated since obvious scouring of the bank of Clematis brook was observed further upstream along the course driving range area, and 16th hole*)

Project proposed:

- * Cart path along this part of Concord Avenue will be removed.
 - * Pond 5 to be expanded into low lying often flooded area which will be planted as emergent marsh: water depth about 6" with wetland vegetation plantings. (*Exact species of plants?*)(*Observed: great blue heron, hooded mergansers, black ducks near sole cattail vegetated area. Several areas of loosestrife also observed. This is the area to be removed during expansion. Request replication of cattail marsh since this appears to be important wildlife area*)
 - * Pond 4 and Pond 2: to be expanded into one large pond. (*Noted loosestrife as only BVW plant, biologist report only cites BVW/land under water as habitat, not species present and therefore impacted by change in resource. Loss of bank/bvw and gain of land under water*)
- *Driving range: plan to add poles to hold net to keep balls out of brook. (*Is this in NOI?*)

Observations:

According to the biologist's report, many areas of the course, particularly around the sixteenth hole and driving range is turf on hydric soils, obviously the course built in the wetland. Although course is existing and grandfathered, anything that can be done to improve the natural function of the remaining wetland should be done. This area is in wetland resource, not just in the buffer Very little BVW around the ponds: establishing even a foot or two of native BVW around these ponds would provide some filtration of the fertilizer, herbicide, fungicide and pesticides that are used to keep the greens in top condition. Would also provide a small increase in BVW/bank habitat which is needed. Benefit wildlife and aesthetics of the area as well as challenge of the course.

The increase in "habitat" trading BANK/BVW for land under water is not equivalent gain: two different habitats serving different species, therefore a good argument for augmenting the BVW elsewhere. BVW to Clematis Brook along sixteenth hole/driving range is about 1-2', could be increased slightly.

Drainage: extensive drainage system to handle flow off course, through pipes into ponds and stream. No grit chambers or filters to handle sediment. Increased flow to stream dismissed in discussion as insignificant . (*Is sediment an issue here?*)

Herbicides, pesticides, fungicides and fertilizer: Inquired about records of kinds, amounts, frequency of application for average year of maintenance. Curious about impact on water bodies and need for mitigation of impact. Records could be compiled if requested.

Tree removal: many trees have been removed, some obviously old, damaged, stormfelled, others healthy and in the buffer.

While not part of this project these issues need addressing as soon as possible:

Sewage/Pollution: Clematis Brook emerging from two culverts near Sixteenth hole: left culvert effluent and stream bed covered with orange slime, sewage smell reported. Letter written to Board of Health/CC re. Finding.

Erosion: Bank severely undercut and scoured by erosion, sandy soil observed, may be source of some of the sediment problem since road sand wouldn't build up in milder seasons. Discussion with engineer: he plans to investigate techniques for bank stabilization but cited wattle and twig or coir mats with sapling stakes that take root. Problem with these is organic deterioration eventually. Changing grade of bank might help.