

APPROVED

MINUTES Belmont Conservation Commission Meeting

Minutes of December 6, 2011 in Room 2 Town Hall at 7:00 P.M.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM.

The next meeting is will be set during the month of January 2012.

Attendance: Chair: Miriam Weil; David Webster, Tino Lichauco, William McCants, Jeff North, Margaret Velie, James Roth; Associate: Brian Kelder.

Review of Minutes of November 6, 2011

James Roth moved that the Commission approve the minutes, as amended, of the November 6, 2011 meeting of the Belmont Conservation Commission. Margaret Velie seconded the motion, and the minutes were approved unanimously.

Snow Storage Discussion with Peter Castinino of the Belmont DPW

Peter Castinino presented a spread sheet showing the results of his research into snow storage facilities in municipalities. Responses indicated that most towns have paved or graveled surfaces to store excessive amounts of snow. Mr. Castinino indicated that he was hesitant to store snow in school yards or residential neighborhoods. He noted limitations on hours of operation and the need to minimize interactions between pedestrians and heavy equipment restricted some opportunities. He stated that he needs a place to store snow on a regular basis, even if the activity does not actually occur.

Jim Roth noted that heavy equipment on the surface of the meadow was a concern, particularly if the ground was not fully frozen. David Webster noted that none of the municipalities surveyed appeared to store snow on a grassland surface. Miriam Weil noted that there is little open space in Belmont, and very little expansive bituminous surface. William McCants summarized portions of the discussion by noting that the use of the North Meadow seemed unpopular within the Commission, and that using the southern meadow, off the Mill Street parking lot might be more palatable as the condition of the grassland was not as fine as the north meadow. Mr. McCants suggested a Pilot Test of a portion of the meadow. He noted that a public review of the proposal, with outreach to various citizen groups, could be done at the January meeting of the Commission. Peter Castinino noted that the Pilot should include several years to allow for the possibility that the upcoming winter might not require any snow storage. He agreed to submit a proposal to store snow on an experimental basis, with north and south meadow conditions to be considered, and that a post use evaluation would be incorporated into the Pilot.

David Webster moved that Peter Castinino should submit a Pilot Program to consider snow storage proposal at Rock Meadow for public review at a public meeting. Jeff North seconded the motion and the vote to approve was unanimous.

Trapelo Road and Belmont Street Request for Determination of Applicability

Glenn Clancy of the Belmont Office of Community Development and Jeffrey Malloy of the BSC Group presented the project to the Commission. Work includes 2.5 miles of roadwork, from approximately Mill Street to the Cambridge city line. Permanent impacts to wetland resource areas are limited to existing, disturbed areas of Riverfront. All work is proposed within the existing right of way, and no removal of native vegetation is proposed. The Commission discussed the project and noted that a Negative Determination of Applicability could be appropriate to condition the work, and that local Special Conditions could be attached.

David Webster moved to issue a Negative (2) Determination of Applicability with the standard Belmont Order of Conditions attached to the document. Jim Roth seconded the motion, and the vote to approve was unanimous.

Community Preservation Act Projects Discussion

Margaret Velie discussed the need to develop a list of potential projects for the CPA funds. She noted that a portion of the monies must be spent within each of several categories, and that monies could be saved from year to year. The Commission discussed the need to prioritize projects, particularly land purchases, noting that an inventory of desirable lands would need to be created. Ms Velie also noted that land could be protected through conservation restrictions as well as fee simple ownership.

The Commission discussed the use of CPA funds to purchase the Uplands site, and members agreed to research potential projects for the next meeting of the Commission.

Election of Officers:

David Webster moved to nominate Miriam Weil as Chairwoman, the motion was seconded by Jim Roth, and the vote was unanimous.

Meeting was adjourned at 10:30 pm.

MEETING NOTICE
Belmont Conservation Commission
December 6, 2011 Agenda
Town Hall, Room 2
7:00 pm

AGENDA

7:00 Call to Order
7:10 Minutes of November 1, 2011
7:15 Snow Storage at Rock Meadow discussion
7:20 Community Preservation Act project priorities
7:30 Trapelo Road and Belmont Street RFD
8:15 Sign Northland Extension 106-28 (as voted at 11-1-11 meeting)
8:20 UPLANDS (DEP 106-0072) update and discussion
8:30 Elections
8:35 Adjourn