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**MEETING MINUTES**  
**Belmont Conservation Commission**  
**March 3, 2015 Meeting Minutes**  
**Room 2 Town Hall**  
**7:00 pm**

**Attendees:**

Members: James Roth (Chairman) David Webster, Jeff North; Charles Chiang; Miriam Weil  
Conservation Agent: Mary Trudeau

- 7:05 The Commission reviewed the minutes of the February 3, 2015 meeting. Jeff North moved to accept the minutes as amended to correct punctuation. The motion was seconded by David Webster, and the motion was approved unanimously.
- 7:10 Certificate of Compliance for 127 Oliver Road (DEP File Number 104-46)(sic). David Webster moved to issue a Certificate of Compliance for the work at 127 Oliver Road done under DEP File Number 104-46 (sic). The motion was seconded by Jeffrey North and unanimously approved by the Commission.
- 7:15 The Commission discussed bee keeping practices and permits at Rock Meadow. Karen LaCourse, Peter Rosenmeier and Caleb Simsbury discussed their proposals for summer 2015. Karen LaCourse requested a maximum of (4) hives for the 2015 season; Peter Rosenmeier requested a maximum of (2) hives for the 2015 season; and Caleb Simsbury requested a maximum of (3) hives for the 2015 season. The Commission agreed to let the beekeepers have a maximum of (9) hives this summer, and agreed that the requests by each bee keeper were appropriate.

Karen LaCourse noted that Tom Steffanini, the Middlesex County Bee Inspector, would be advising the bee keepers throughout the season. She noted that the hives in the meadow have typically been disease free and honey production has been good.

David Webster moved to authorize Mary Trudeau to send letters of permission to Karen LaCourse, Peter Rosenmeier and Caleb Simsbury authorizing the proposed hives for the summer of 2015. The motion was seconded by Jeff North, and unanimously approved.

- 7:30 Joan Teebagy, a Belmont resident, presented a grazing proposal for Rock Meadow, for the 2015 growing season. Joan noted that she would provide rotational grazing for approximately 1-2 acres of meadow through the use of approximately (6) sheep. Joan discussed the hazards of dogs, coyotes and vandals, noting that use of a camera might be beneficial if problems arise. Joan noted that the program should be considered a "pilot program" and that the duration was dependent on the success of the project.

Joan stated that she had discussed the project with John Maguranis, the Belmont Animal Control Officer, and that he was supportive of the initiative. Joan has also consulted with the Board of Health, and will be working with that Department to obtain a permit or permission.

Joan agreed to consider educational opportunities and signage, as well as promotion of the project within the Town of Belmont.

David Webster moved to approve a Pilot Grazing Program for the summer of 2015 at Rock Meadow. The Pilot Program would incorporate temporary housing and fencing for the lambs, and that the program would utilize six or seven sheep. The location of the grazing area will be decided by Mary Trudeau and Joan Teebagy, once the snow clears and the meadow can be viewed. The motion was seconded by Jeff North, and unanimously approved by the Commission.

8:30 178 Marsh Street: Appeal of ORAD issued for wetlands delineation

The Commission noted that there will be a site visit for the Appeal of the ORAD issued for the ANRAD filing at 178 Marsh Street (Chiafaro property) on April 15, 2015. Jim Sprague has continued his review of the filing to allow for a spring visit. The Commission requested that Mary Trudeau contact Don Chiafaro (the applicant and landowner of 178 Marsh Street) and request permission for the Commission to access the site with a third party Soils Expert. The Commission noted that there are funds available to fund the review, and that the applicant would not be required to pay for the Commission's expert, at this time.

8:45 The Commission discussed the status of the Rock Meadow Community Garden Irrigation project. Mary Trudeau stated that some progress has been made and an appointment made with an Irrigation installer.

8:50 Jeff North reported on the Lone Tree Hill property. He gave an update of the March 4, 2015 agenda, noting that the Trustee of Reservation Report and a Barn status update would be discussed. Jeff also mentioned a need to coordinate 2015 mowing plans with Rock Meadow maintenance.

9:00 Mary Trudeau reported that the Building Inspector anticipates issuing foundation permits for the Uplands project within the next few business days.

9:05 Mary Trudeau reported that she had been in contact with BETA Group, and that the final plans for Clay Pit Pond were being prepared.

9:10 The Commission agreed to postpone discussion of the Environmental Land and Housing Inventory until Margaret Velie is in attendance. The Commission had a brief discussion on potential CPA funding for projects.

9:15 The meeting was adjourned upon a motion by David Webster, a second by Jeff North, and the unanimous vote of the Commission.

### Adjourn

David Webster moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:15 pm; Charles Chiang seconded the motion, and the meeting was adjourned at 9:15 pm.