

APPROVED

MEETING MINUTES
Belmont Conservation Commission
May 12, 2015 Meeting Minutes
Room 2 Town Hall
7:00 pm

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BELMONT, MA

2015 JUN -4 AM 9:03

Attendees:

Members: James Roth (Chairman) David Webster (vice Chairman), Charles Chiang; Miriam Weil; Margaret Velie, Jeffrey North

Conservation Agent: Mary Trudeau

7:05 Review of Minutes of April 14, 2015 meeting

The Commission reviewed the minutes of the April 14, 2015 meeting.

Miriam Weil moved to accept the minutes as amended by David Webster. The motion was seconded by David Webster, and the motion was approved unanimously.

7:10 Signing of Order of Conditions (DEP File Number 106-123)

The Commission signed the Order of Conditions issued for the work at 15 Hickory Lane to extend the gas service into the property. Mary Trudeau noted that she had sent a letter explaining the approval of the application to the utility company.

7:15 Extension of Determination of Applicability: Lubin Property on Somerset Street

The Commission discussed a request by Aquatic Technology to extend a negative Determination of Applicability issued to David Lubin in 2006. The Commission was concerned with the duration of the Negative Determination due to various extensions in recent years.

David Webster moved, seconded by Margaret Velie, not to extend the Determination of Applicability to require the filing of a new Determination of Applicability for any additional Pond Treatment of Lubins Pond. The motion was unanimously approved.

7:20 Belmont Hill School: Request to Use Rock Meadow for XCountry Meets:

George Tahan, of the Belmont Hill School, presented a proposal for the use of Rock Meadow. Mr. Tahan noted that the Belmont Hill School does not have a XCountry track for use in school meets. The school currently uses running courses at Fresh Pond, or foregoes the hosting of meets. He proposed the use of Rock Meadow trails for two "home" cross country meets during the fall of 2015. Each meet would include 2 to 4 teams of runners, and Belmont Hill would drive runners from the school campus to the Meadow. Parking needs would likely be minimal, and could be accommodated by the existing parking at Rock Meadow and on Mill Street. Belmont Hill would pay to rent portable toilet facilities, and would remove all signage, trash and other runner related debris for off-site disposal. Mr Tahan noted that the school provides field space for local

teams, and in this spirit of cooperation, would like to be able to provide a local 5K running course for Belmont Hill at Rock Meadow.

David Webster moved, and the motion was seconded by Miriam Weil, to allow the use of Rock Meadow for two Belmont Hill School sponsored Cross Country meets during the fall of 2015. The motion included the payment of a rental fee to the Commission (to be used for maintenance of the meadow) and a provision that the school provide toilet and trash services, as described. The Motion was unanimously approved.

7:20 Eagle Scout Hikes in Rock Meadow:

Eli Sears, an Eagle Scout candidate, proposed the use of Rock Meadow to conduct a series of hikes to benefit the Department of Children and Families in Arlington. Eli proposed the use of the one mile hiking loop on two dates during the summer of 2015. Eli and his scouting associates will use the hikes to demonstrate skills and nature study to families, and charge each family a small fee for participation. The monies raised will be used to purchase knapsacks and school supplies for children in the care of DCF. Eli reported that he anticipated needing a small tent to shelter the one or two tables he would set up at Rock Meadow. Eli noted that he did not anticipate more than 150 hikers or staff during the two days of events.

David Webster moved to approve the use of the trails at Rock Meadow for the Eagle Scout project proposed by Eli Sears on two dates during the summer of 2014. The motion was seconded by Margaret Velie and unanimously approved.

7:35 Request for Certificate of Compliance: 595 Concord Avenue (104-001)

The Commission reviewed the request for a Certificate of Compliance for the DEP File 104-1, at 595 Concord Avenue. Margaret Velie and Mary Trudeau discussed their site visit on May 6, 2015, noting that the site appeared stable and that evidence of adverse impacts related to the historic dredging of the pond.

Margaret Velie moved to issue a Certificate of Compliance for the project. The Motion was seconded by Miriam Weil, and the vote was unanimous to approve.

7:30 Public Discussion on the funding of Rock Meadow Maintenance:

The Commission discussed the need to provide funding for long term maintenance of Rock Meadow. Annual mowing of the fields costs at least five thousand dollars (\$5000.00) per year, and there is no budget for this expense. The Community Gardens generate enough funding to mow the paths, and Friends of Rock Meadow have been effective in fund raising to contribute to the mowing costs. The estimated annual cost for maintenance of the existing acreage is \$8500 to \$10,000 dollars. Mary Trudeau noted that while negotiations with Constellation Senior Players Tournament for a rental fee were attractive to the Commission, it was an attraction based on financial necessity, as it was expected that the fee would cover several years of mowing costs.

Members of the public noted their concern with the use of the meadow for non recreational uses. Funding alternatives, including a request to Town Meeting for a formal budget to manage the Meadow were discussed. Private sources of income, such as grants and fundraising appeals were noted as being effective, but difficult to sustain over a period of years.

David Webster moved to send a letter to both the Director of the Department of Public Works (Jay Marcotte), and the Director of Community Development (Glenn Clancy) seeking a regular source of money to fund annual meadow maintenance. David noted that the letter should be signed by James Roth, as Chairman of the Conservation Commission. The motion was seconded by Jeff North, and unanimously approved by the Commission.

8:15 178 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 May 20, 2015 .

8:20 Appointments to the Conservation Commission

The Commission discussed potential appointments to the Conservation Commission. The Commission agreed to submit names to the Selectmen for consideration. Names discussed included Renee Gau and Dan Nolan, a Town Meeting Member from Precinct 2.

8:30 Lone Tree Hill: Property Updates

Jeff North reported that the Land Management Committee has finalized their mowing plan for the season, and will mow the entire Lone Tree Hill meadow twice (late spring and early fall). Jeff noted that Mary Trudeau should coordinate mowing of Rock Meadow. Jeff also described a great work day, resulting in trail improvements and stabilization of the coal road. Litter was picked up, and the property conditions were visibly improved.

Sheep Grazing Pilot Program:

Mary Trudeau reminded the Commission that lambs will be arriving later this month, or in early June. Temporary fencing and a hut are in progress, and Joan Teebagy has been using social media to advertise the project.

Claypit Pond Intergenerational Walking Path Plan:

The Commission requested Mary Trudeau contact Beta Group and ask about the status of the project. Mary agreed to do this, and to set up a meeting to review the final product.

Waterline CPA Work Update:

Mary Trudeau noted that she was waiting for an invoice to be able to process the Purchase Order for the water line replacement work.

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.