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MEETING MINUTES
Belmont Conservation Commission
August 4, 2015 Meeting Minutes
Room 2 Town Hall
7:00 pm

Attendees:

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

Conservation Agent: Mary Trudeau

Others:

Joan Teebagy
Alina Costa
Rich Kirby (LEC)
Dan Nolan
Roger Wrubel
Margaret Hunter
Maura Mallowney

7:05 Review of Minutes of June 23, 2015 meeting

The Commission reviewed the minutes of the June 23, 2015 meeting.

Miriam Weil moved to accept the minutes as amended, David Webster seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous to approve the motion.

7:10 Harvard Running Club: Alina Costa

Alina Costa presented a proposal to run a cross country running event at Rock Meadow on September 26, 2015. The event is an Invitational event, and includes runners from various college running clubs in the Boston area. Alina noted that the Club has run two successful races at Rock Meadow in recent years, and would like to stage a third event this fall. She noted that signage would be put up and taken down on the day of the race; carpooling would be encouraged; and portable toilets would be placed in the parking area for the event. The event requires water and registration tables, and the club expects to host approximately 120 runners.

On a motion made by David Webster, and seconded by James Roth, the Commission voted to sent a letter granting permission for the running club to host an invitational race with approximately 120 runners on or about September 26, 2015. The motion was unanimously approved.

7:20 Enforcement Order issued for 275 Somerset Street:

Rich Kirby represented the owner of the property, Paul Palanjian. Rich noted that the Order of Conditions, outstanding on the property, included a landscaping plan. He stated that the previously approved landscaping plan for the property would be implemented in response to the recent enforcement action, and in compliance with the existing Order of Conditions. Rich described the plan as including native plants, and using composted leaf litter as a ground cover.

Rich stated that the limit of Bordering Vegetated Wetlands, as approved in the Order of Conditions issued in 2005, would be field located on the site prior to any new landscaping work. The planting plan will include at least (21) trees and approximately (150) shrubs and ground cover plantings. Rich Kirby noted that LEC had revised the previously improved Planting Plan to include a more representative native plant community. A tentative completion date for the work was estimated as November 15, 2015. The Commission noted that they would appreciate notice that the wetlands delineation had been re established, and that they would be interested in reviewing the demarcation. Rich stated that LEC would be supervising the implementation of the landscaping plan on the property.

David Webster moved to accept the Buffer Zone Restoration Report and Enforcement Resolution report with the following conditions:

1. There will be no erosion controls or earthwork within a resource area; and
2. The applicant need not clear and grub to replant the buffer zone areas with new vegetation.

8:00 Joan Teebagy and Update on the Pilot Grazing Project

The Commission discussed the ongoing grazing of six (6) sheep at Rock Meadow. Joan noted that the sheep were given rabies shots this month. She noted that strong populations of horse nettle and milk weed populations are reducing the grazing acreage. Joan has been using a hose to access the water from the Garden area, and this is better than carrying jugs. Coyotes continue to pressure the sheep, but there have been no direct confrontations, yet, this summer.

8:15 Mowing at Rock Meadow Discussion:

Discussion concerning the mowing practices at Rock Meadow ensued. A resident expressed concern with the extent of the path mowing, and noted that she preferred the meadow to be less mown. The Commission noted that we are charged with keeping the meadow accessible, and that mowing of the paths periodically needs to be expanded to allow safe egress. Mowing is used for tick control along the paths, as well as for safety concerns.

8:25 178 Marsh Street: Appeal of Superseding Order of Resource Area Delineation:

The Commission discussed the appeal of the ORAD by a neighborhood coalition. Roger Wrubel noted that MassAudubon was discussing joining the appeal as an intervenor and

asked that the Commission consider a similar change in status. The Commission noted his request but did not take action on the request.

8:50 Claypit Pond Intergenerational Walking Path update:

The Commission noted that the final project should have been received by the beginning of July, and asked Mary Trudeau to contact Amanda Sloan concerning the deliverables.

9:00 David Webster discussed his attendance at the recent Community Bike Path committee meeting. He noted that the Committee should be discussing potential bike routes with the Conservation Commission. He suggested inviting the Committee to a meeting.

9:05 Community Preservation Act projects:

The Commission discussed potential projects to be submitted for consideration by the CPA committee. Discussion focused on the possibility of creating a fund to allow for land purchases or restrictions. The Commission noted that Lincoln has such a fund, and uses the monies to research and seed transactions of land or restrictions. The Commission suggested a fund of 50K dollars would allow for preliminary work, such as down payments, survey costs, or other pre purchase considerations.

A second discussion considered the use of monies for the eradication of invasive plant species at Rock Meadow, Clay Pit Pond, the Library or Concord Avenue. This is another type of project successfully funded in other towns.

A third suggestion was the use of funds to prepare an Open Space Plan. This document is a pre requisite of many grant applications.

Adjourn

David Webster moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:30 pm; Miriam Weil seconded the motion, and the meeting was adjourned at 9:30 pm.