

Minutes March 1, 2005 Belmont Conservation Commission
Location: Chenery Middle School Faculty lunchroom
7 PM

APPROVED

Attendance: Commissioners Moore, Davis, Smith and Acting Chair Weil. Associates Sanders, Bishop, Velie and King, Town Engineer Glenn Clancy Scott Morrison, Engineer and Neil Johnson on Somerset Street sewer project, Audrey DiGiovanni and James Decoulas from Belmont Citizens for Environment and PureCoat North Committee, Gino Volpe from the Rock Meadow Gardeners, Belmont Citizens Forum President: Grant Monahon, Citizens: Jennifer Paige, Darrell King, Walter McLaughlin

Minutes: Minutes of February 1, 2005: two versions were submitted. Bishop minutes were approved with punctuation change and removal of executive session minutes to separate document.

Sewer Line: Neil Johnson owns the sewer system under Concord Avenue and seeks to extend it to 270 Somerset Rd, near Juniper Road. A forced sewer pipe of about 1.5" would pass above the old stone culvert of Atkins Brook, buried in the road. All the work is to be done in the roadway, ditching and filling progressively. Siltation fence and haybales will be installed to protect the brook during construction. The Order of Conditions was unanimously approved to be issued with mitigation measures listed in the Notice of Intent.

Belmont Citizens for the Environment: Audrey DiGiovanni addressed concerns about chemicals and waste disposal at Pure Coat North, formerly Cambridge Plating Co. Originally built on a slab, two buildings, one on Hittinger and one on Brighton were combined and a basement was dug for storing the waste chemicals in tanks. Concern was expressed about flooding situations when tanks become buoyant and leaks occur at the juncture. James Decoulas, an engineer and LSP joined in seeking involvement of the ConCom since the plant is located in the 100 year flood plain. The history of the site was discussed. The commission will take the issue under advisement.

Victory Gardens: Gino Volpe reported on the gardens. About 80 lots are used out of around 100. It is possible that the gardeners may be able to make a donation to the Conservation Commission as they did in the past, for brush cutting. He recommended contacting Tony the Tree Man and expressed concern over the loss of meadow to invading brush.

Mass Bay Commuter Railroad: Public Hearing: Request for Determination from Tec Associates Consulting Engineers for right of way management. Glenn Clancy explained that the wetlands determination for the Five Year Operating Plan for vegetation management had expired. The railroad sprays herbicides to maintain the railbed and some of this right of way passes by wetlands: ClayPit Pond, Royal Road in particular. Areas are designated: sensitive, no-spray, limited-spray and limited-spray every other year. The ConCom moved to reconfirm the wetlands delineation and requested the applicant return to the ConCom when the Yearly Operating Plan is completed.

Draft wetlands bylaw: Discussion ensued about the draft local wetlands bylaw. Glenn expressed concern over lack of public comment during the process. A working copy of an older version of the draft bylaw clearly labeled "Draft Not for Distribution" had in fact been distributed with negative comments. W.McLaughlin expressed strong opposition to both the bylaw, the Wetlands Protection Act, and the Conservation Commission. Jennifer Paige expressed appreciation for the commission's work and encouraged public comment and education on the draft bylaw.

A meeting was planned for March 15 or 16 to see if at least two of the remaining three commissioners can attend to comment and possibly approve the bylaw. The process hinges on the date the warrant closes: if early in March then it was decided that the time is too short to accomplish the necessary public meetings before Town Meeting and the issue would be postponed to the next Town Meeting. If the warrant doesn't close until the end of March then perhaps the bylaw can be ready for April Town Meeting.

Due to the absence of three Commissioners it was impossible to get approval of the entire commission, however a motion was made as follows: To accept as a draft the bylaw submitted by the wetland bylaw subcommittee with the minor changes and the possible addition of the definition of fisheries. Seconded. Unanimous among members present.

McLean Conservation Restriction: Now that the Northland permits have been issued, the C R document requires CC signatures however the Commissioners did not want to sign a blank document. Glenn will return with completed document for signatures. Wesley Ward of Trustees of Reservation will prepare the document.

Notice of Completion for 80 Clifton Street signed by commissioners present.

Oliver Road: resident would like to convert deck to enclosed addition and wonders if bylaw would affect plans. Property abuts Little Pond and is about 31-34' from the DCR property line. It is unclear if the maps show current erosion of bank. The addition would mean a change from pervious surface to impervious surface on the same footprint. It is difficult to judge until new DEP regulations are issued. Accurate measuring of property from DCR property and bank was recommended.

Uplands Appeal: no update available

Meeting adjourned at 10:30 PM

Next regularly scheduled CC meeting on April 5th, 2005, 7 PM at Town Hall. Note change of location.

Submitted by Carolyn Bishop with help from Peg Velie