

MINUTES: Belmont Conservation Commission Meeting

Minutes of March 1, 2011 meeting.

The meeting was called to order in Room 2 of Town Hall at 7PM.

The next meeting is scheduled for April 5, 2011.

Attendance: Mary Trudeau, Conservation Agent, Chair: Miriam Weil; David Webster, Margaret Velie, Martha Moore, Jeffrey North, Jim Roth, Tino Lichauco (7:40), Associates William McCants

Karen Lacourse Beekeeper

REVIEW OF MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 8, 2011 MEETING

Martha Moore moved that the minutes be accepted without amendments. David Webster seconded the motion and the minutes were approved unanimously.

Gardens at Rock Meadow

Mary Trudeau sent notices to gardeners requesting registration forms and fees for the summer of 2011 season. She noted that the waiting list for gardens is well over 100 people, and that Barbara Gardner had been instrumental in maintaining the list this spring.

Karen LaCourse – Bee Keeping at Rock Meadow

Ms. LaCourse requested permission to set up and maintain bee hives at Rock Meadow. Karen noted that she had spoken with Joan Teabagy, and she discussed some of Ms. Teabagy's experience during the summer of 2010. Discussion points included the notion that the Rock Meadow gardeners like the bees for their pollination services, and the garden yields may have been better last season than the year before due to the bee hives kept by Ms. Teabagy. Ms. Teabagy apparently lost at least one swarm of bees last summer, for reasons that are unclear. David Webster suggested that Ms. LaCourse could make the hives available for public view and thus offer some education value to the various stakeholders in the meadow. Mary Trudeau suggested working with garden coordinators to offer a beekeeping discussion or some form of outreach. She noted that we have kiosks on the Rock Meadow property and that we could also post literature from the Middlesex BeeKeepers.

David Webster moved that the Commission issue letters to Ms. LaCourse and Ms. Teabagy, containing the same conditions issued to Ms. Teabagy in 2010. Ms. LaCourse will have permission to keep 2 to 4 hives for one year in the same location as the hives occupied last year. A motion was made by David Webster, seconded by James Roth, and all approved.

Meeting with the Board of Selectmen

The Commission agreed to request agenda time on the March 21, 2011 agenda of the Board of Selectmen. The Commission will provide an update to the Selectmen on Rock Meadow, 2010 activities, gardens, grant, money from Town Meeting. Miriam Weil will create a list of items and which Commissioners shall present them.

Somerset Road Modifications to Orders of Conditions

Problem: McClintock property owners did not file correctly / advertise to abutters, so we can't do any but minor modification rather than amend the OOC. The Commission reviewed the conditions issued in connection with the plan of 12/3/2010 as well as the Wetland Enhancement Plan of 9/15/2005, and made points to Mary to put in a letter.

The Vacroux property conditions were also reviewed for modifying Order of Conditions. The Commission noted that while they were willing to review the type and location of the restoration plantings required in the 2006 Order of Conditions, it was not the intent of the Commission to waive the replanting of vegetation to mitigate for the illicit clearing that occurred at that time.

Review of the Cambridge Conservation Commission Visit

Tino Lichauco, Margaret Velie and Martha Moore reviewed their visit to the Cambridge Conservation Commission in February and related conversations with its members.

THE UPLANDS (DEP FILE NUMBER 106-0072) UPDATE

The Commission discussed recent actions on the pending litigation.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:15 pm