

MINUTES OF CONSERVATION COMMISSION MEETING OF MARCH 13, 2001

PRESENT: Commission Members: Allen, Curro, Flamang, Foster, Baskin. Town: Clancy
Guests: Margaret Velie (LWV), Patrick Maguire, Sue Bass, Luceille Dressler,
Jeff Buster, Barbara Passero

7:00 Meeting called to order by **Chairman Allen**, minutes accepted.

Old Business: Letter accepted re: Rock Meadow.

7:15 Presentation by **Patrick McGuire** of **Complete the Complex** (Sports Field at High School).

Not in wetland, but presented as a courtesy to the Con. Comm.

New track: It's an infilled artificial turf. This to be done now if funding is approved at town meeting. Cost-lifetime-use is less than natural grass. Conservation benefits: No pesticides, herbicides, irrigation or runoff. Also water artificial turf is pervious so rain drains into ground, not storm sewer.

Allen: what the green dye is? No answer. Treated for UV however.

Baskin: asked them to use the storm water rules on whole project.

7:40 **Rock Meadow:** re legal opinion from town counsel Morrisey that land can be used for active sports as per proposal from the Belm. Recreation Comm. and Belmont Hill School.

Baskin wants to see proposal before deciding whether to allow active sports.

Foster, who wrote the original proposal for the acquisition in 1968, said the intent was to develop more active sports, i.e. playing fields.

Bass was recognized by the chair. She commented that she prefers disorganized recreation and thinks there aren't enough open spaces in town.

Baskin: ? use MDC abandoned skating rink instead (Actually this was nixed by MDC.)

A Discussion followed about details for agreement for sports use of Rock Meadow.

Clancy: Agreement could provide maintenance and care for which there are no funds now.

New Business:

ENF at McLean Hospital. Baskin wrote excellent letter to Town Planner Tim Higgins re: storm water and recharge. Formal comments should be in to Higgins from CC by next week.

Allen: New elder housing and new research building drainage has problems. All water will be going into storm sewer which floods now already. Also forest on slopes will be deprived of water and will suffer/ even die. Another problem with the drains in system is cleaning them. Who will monitor?

Other problems: Some plans missing, some incomplete. And nothing about storm water management in zones 4 and 5 (McLean Expansion).

Need a cohesive plan for all areas.

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8:25 **Barbara Passero** found an oil spill at **McLean** on February 9, 2001 around brook and Higginson Bldg. Reported it to Mass Environmental Protection who reported to the Fire Department. On another day, she saw chemicals as well as oil. Photos were presented.

Buster: Spill was from the power house where they were excavating a trench that was 80 feet long. They should have had separators.

If permanent ground water pumps have been installed, they will be removing the water source, which may be illegal by diverting the water from a stream.

Baskin: July 31, 1997 was a drought year, and except for April 1st snow storm which skewed the calculation formula, streams would not have been intermittent.

Foster: Can we revisit it?

Baskin: If walkers take photos and date them, we could prove they have altered the waterway and are causing a problem. We could ask them to recharge the parking lot when it is repaved. Belmont should have a storm water by-law. She will bring some sample ones

8:50 Water Chestnut man, **Roger Friemeyer** pulled out literally tons of this weed. The CC thanks him.

Allen: Re: Arthur D. Little **Uplands**. Planning Board wants to extend the building moratorium 6 more months. If people object, everyone should offer suggestions to Planning Board to get rid of the moratorium.

Next Meeting, April 3 at Chenery School.

Respectfully submitted,

Ruth Foster