

BELMONT CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES

APPROVED

April 13, 2004

Members Present: M. Flamang, M. King, M. Weil, J. Smith, R. Foster, K. Baskin.
Associate Members Present: M. Velie, S. Sanders, N. Davis.

Additional Attendees: See attendance sheet.

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 p.m. by M. Flamang.

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of January 6, 2004, were approved as submitted. The minutes of the meeting of February 3, 2004, were then considered. Someone pointed out that the name "Pisano" is misspelled. The minutes were then approved as so corrected.

Old Business – Accounting of Previous Minutes

G. Clancy then noted that we are missing the minutes of the meetings that were held on August 14 and November 13, 2003. It was agreed that those who have notes from those meetings will send their notes to M. Flamang.

New Business

M. Flamang reported on the status of the DEP appeal of the Commission's decision regarding the O'Neill commercial project. He said the Rachel Freed, the hearing officer, has implied that she disagrees with our position that O'Neill should have applied for Site Plan Approval from the Planning Board prior to filing their Notice of Intent. R. Foster suggested that we include in our response that the O'Neill filing was an abuse of process because they had already announced that they were abandoning the commercial project. S. Sanders suggested that we argue that commercial use is the least harmful to the area, and that we will require them to restore all wetlands displaced (and that would make the project prohibitively expensive). R. Foster also suggested that we require that they inspect all sewer lines in the area and ensure that the sewage system can handle all the additional sewage produced by their project.

G. Clancy pointed out that the issuance of the sewer permit at McLean has been appealed. We will see what the DEP's position is on these issues when they issue that decision.

M. Flamang said that the Planning Board wants to know (for all projects coming before it) what the Commission thinks at a fairly early stage. He suggested that we have in the past acted prior to the site plan approval, so we might want to consider conceding that that one basis (but not the others) is not a valid basis of the rejection. R. Foster said that she thinks we would not gain anything by conceding that issue. The Commission

discussed the merits of conceding the point. M. Flamang then moved that the Commission respond to the DEP by saying that it is willing to waive any requirement that the applicant must apply for site plan approval from the Planning Board before filing a notice of intent. That motion was defeated. G. Clancy suggested that the response could be worded that "it is the present position of the current Commission in this particular situation."

Belmont Country Club – Discussion of Existing Order of Conditions (8:05)

Chip Nylan, attorney for the Belmont Country Club, and Scott Morrison from Ecotech, appeared on behalf of the Country Club. They had a long-term maintenance plan approved by the Commission in 1999, for dredging the brook of the road debris, such as sand and silt, that accumulates in it. They proposed that the Commission issue a Certificate of Compliance for that maintenance work, with that maintenance plan attached, so that they can do that work annually.

They estimated that the catch basins are one-third to one-half full right now. They already have the machines that would do the dredging. The Commission would get notification before any of the work was done, and would have the right to observe and inspect.

K. Baskin pointed out that in 1999 the Country Club was required to, and did, determine the source of the silt. Their engineer determined that it was Route 2 and, to a lesser extent, Winter Street. They stated that they are planning to do a survey to document the source.

It was the consensus of the Commission that the approach proposed by the Country Club is reasonable. K. Baskin suggested installing a sedimentation basin near Route 2 at the source of the problem. They replied that they are considering that. R. Foster stated her concern about the adverse effect on the neighbor and the trees from the 1999 work. S. Sanders suggested that the abutters should be notified when the work is done. The Country Club representatives agreed that that would not be a problem.

Old Business – Clay Pit Pond (8:25)

The Order of Conditions has been issued. However, the replanting plan still has to be approved. M. Flamang stated that he does not think there is significant damage to the bank and vegetation. He thinks the stabilizing of the bank is the priority there, not just the planting of vegetation. The coir logs needed to execute the plan submitted will cost about \$1200. Who will install them? Joyce Munroe has asked Glenn Clancy to get bids for the work, but he thinks the Town employees might be able to do the work. He asked whether anyone knows of contractors who do that type of work.

N. Davis suggested another 20 foot coir log between points 2 and 3 on the plan submitted. M. Flamang will add that to the plan. N. Davis is also concerned that, in the area of

points 1 and 2 on the plan, the bank has eroded. The path above it should be restored and the grass replanted. There is also still some loosestrife. K. Baskin suggested that we could get a grant to clean out the loosestrife.

The Commission agreed to proceed as follows: Members will send all comments on the plan to M. Flamang, who will issue the final plan. G. Clancy will then get some quotes for the work.

New Business

S. Sanders joined Doug Madsen and Duc Luu (Eagle Scout candidate) in doing some cleanup work at Rock Meadow. The Commission will send them a letter of thanks.

M. Weil noted that Temple Beth El had an environmental fair, which was very successful. They were looking for a volunteer project, and Ellen Mass of the Friends of Alewife Reservation directed them to the cleanup around Blair Pond. The Commission voted to write to the DCR about the wisdom of cleaning up Blair Pond and perhaps installing a barrier at the parking lot at the edge of Blair Pond to keep out the debris.

G. Clancy suggested taking a vote on the banning of ATVs at Rock Meadow. The Commission voted to ban the use of ATVs at Rock Meadow, and that the rule be enforced for non-criminal disposition.

R. Foster pointed out that coyotes are becoming an increasing problem. She has received a letter from a Belmont resident complaining about the problem.

N. Davis mentioned that other towns have attempted goose control through planting of a coyote statue. S. Sanders noted that he had gone to a goose workshop, where they suggested that oiling eggs would be a good means of control. He has some ideas he will pursue.

G. Clancy said that he has been contacted by a woman who wants to do an education program concerning vernal pools. K. Baskin suggested that Roger Wrubel would be the one person who knows best where all the vernal pools are.

Arlington has obtained a stormwater control grant and they are seeking volunteers to hang notices on doorknobs and to stencil storm basins.

The meeting was then adjourned. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 4, 2004.

Prepared by:
Johanna Smith