

APPROVED

MINUTES Belmont Conservation Commission Meeting

April 2, 2013 in Conference Room 2 Homer Building at 7:00 A.M.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 AM.

Attendance: Chair: James Roth; David Webster, Jeffrey North, Margaret Velie, Miriam Weil

Janice Bernsee, gardener at Rock Meadow
Girls Scouts from Troop 71930 (Olivia Hardy, Sophie Schatzke-McClain, Natalia Gorman)
Gretchen McClain (Troop Leader)
Anne-Marie Lambert
Ann Paulson
Mike Rose
JP Fine

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Troop 71930 Community Service Project

Olivia Hardy, Sophie Schatzke-McClain and Natalia Gorman presented a landscaping proposal for the Veterans flagpole at the Clay Pit Pond Park. The scouts had met with John Magurnis, Veterans Staff, and a landscape architect (Lauren Meyers) and developed a plan to replace the existing mulch surface, re plant the locus and generally rehabilitate the garden area. The scouts noted that they would be planting native and indigenous shrubs, including: Fothergill, Swamp Azalea, Eastern Redbud and Aronia.

The scouts noted that they were fundraising to provide the money to rehabilitate the garden area. They estimated the cost of the project at \$3000.00 dollars, and note that they have raised approximately \$1200.00 dollars to date.

The presentation was exceptionally well prepared with graphics to support the conversation.

Jim Roth moved, seconded by David Webster, to approve the described work at the Veterans flagpole. The Commission voted unanimously to approve the work as described.

Review of Minor Modification proposed at Belmont Country Club/Ratification of the Enforcement Action issued on March 19, 2013:

The Conservation Commission discussed recent sidewalk paving with Mike Rose, of the Belmont Country Club. Mary Trudeau noted that the Club had reported the repaving of a section of sidewalk near the 10th Tee Snack Shack to the Commission. This work had not been included in the recent filing of a Notice of Intent for improvements in this locus, and

was within a jurisdictional area (Riverfront Area and jurisdictional buffer zone to Bordering Vegetated Wetland). Ms. Trudeau noted that the paving work had been issued an enforcement action, requiring the filing of an application to retroactively permit the work. She also noted that two weeks prior to this paving, she had inspected the construction of a concrete pad, also constructed without a permit and within a resource area and jurisdictional buffer zone. In response to the concrete pad, Ms. Trudeau had not issued an enforcement action but had advised the applicant to request a minor modification to the approved site plan. Ms. Trudeau expressed disappointment at the Club's second violation in such a short period of time.

JP Fine and Mike Rose discussed the repaving of the sidewalk, noting that a Club member had mistakenly "ordered" the work to be done. Both Mr. Fine and Mike Rose noted that the Order of Conditions had been reviewed by the construction team, and that an unprofessional interaction had resulted in the miscommunication. Mike noted that the Club had a strong history of positive interactions with the Commission and that this recent work was an aberration. Mary Trudeau agreed that the Club and their consultant, Kelly Cardoza of Avalon Consulting, have traditionally filed for work within wetland areas and that the Club has had several Orders of Conditions in recent years.

The Commission discussed the request for a minor modification and the ratification of the enforcement action. A motion to approve both was made by David Webster and seconded by Miriam Weil. The motion was passed unanimously.

Review of Minutes:

The Commission reviewed the Minutes of the February 5, 2013 meeting. Miriam Weil moved to approve the minutes as written, the motion was seconded by Margaret Velie. The vote was unanimous.

The Commission reviewed the Minutes of the March 5, 2013 meeting. David Webster moved to approve the minutes, as amended, the motion was seconded by Jeff North. The vote was unanimous.

The Commission reviewed the Minutes of the March 23, 2013 meeting. David Webster moved to approve the minutes, as amended, the motion was seconded by Miriam Weil. The vote was unanimous.

Bee Hive Request for Summer of 2013

The Commission reviewed the written request by Ezequiel Alvarez-Saavedra to continue to maintain bee hives in Rock Meadow. The request noted that Lucia Wille would be assisting Mr. Alvarez-Saavedra this summer.

Janice Bernsee stated that bee hives were not as effective as native pollinators. She also noted that her raspberries had been adversely affected by bees in recent years. Ms.

Bernsee noted that the 2012 Minutes of the Conservation Commission were not accessible through the Town website.

The Commission instructed Mary Trudeau to write a letter approving the request for two (2) hives during the summer of 2013.

Miriam Weil moved to approve the two hives, and the instructions to Mary Trudeau, and the motion was seconded by David Webster. The vote was unanimous.

The Uplands (DEP File Number 106-72)

The Commission discussed the implications of the infiltrator failure at the First Church of Belmont property, and whether or not the O/M plan for the Uplands project would benefit from modification. David Webster discussed the possibility of sending a letter to Rachel Freed that would ask for additional mitigation and inspection protocol. The Commission debated their standing in the monitoring and inspection of the site. Mary Trudeau agreed to contact Rachel Freed to discuss the implementation of the Order. The Commission discussed the agreement to terminate the appeal of the Uplands decision. There were no motions made concerning the status of the appeal.

Anne-Marie Lambert spoke to the Commission about several issues. She commented on the Lone Tree Hill cleanup project; phosphorus monitoring; the DCR Rink site usage for staging; and noted that there would be a walk on the DCR path near the uplands on May 4, 2013.

The Commission adjourned at 10:45 PM.

Next meeting: May 7, 2013