

APPROVED

FINAL

MINUTES Belmont Conservation Commission Meeting

April 3, 2012 in Room 1, Town Hall at 7:00 P.M.



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

The next meeting is May 1, 2012.

Attendance: Chair: Miriam Weil, David Webster, William McCants, Jeff North, Margaret Velie, Faustino Lichauco and Jim Roth

Sue Bass, Darrell King and Joe Finn were in the audience.

Approval of March 13, 2012 Meeting Minutes

Jeff North moved to approve the minutes as amended. The motion was seconded by Jim Roth, and the motion passed. Faustino Lichauco abstained. There were no objections.

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253-265 Marsh Street – Enforcement Action

Mary Trudeau reported that a site inspection at the 253 to 265 Marsh Street property had revealed work within jurisdictional areas that did not appear to be regulated by an Order of Conditions. She noted that she had issued a verbal cease work order; requested the installation of erosion and sedimentation controls at the limit of work line; and the filing of a Notice of Intent for work within jurisdictional areas. The Commission noted that they would support the issuance of a formal enforcement order if Ms. Trudeau felt it necessary. She noted that the applicant appeared willing to comply with her requests, and that she would continue to monitor the site. The Commission noted that the unstabilized soils should be hydroseeded at the 253 Marsh Street site as soon as possible.

Mowing at Rock Meadow Spring and Summer of 2012

Joe Finn discussed his mowing of the meadows during the summer of 2011, describing the care and concerns that he had for the use of the mower. He noted that he had been regularly maintaining the mower, and that it was being stored in the barn, adjacent to Rock Meadow. Joe discussed the need to coordinate mowing with bird nesting activity, and noted that Bob O Links and meadowlarks were found in the meadow last summer. He also noted that the blue bird nesting boxes had produced several crops of fledglings over the summer months.

The Commission discussed the value of the mowing provided by Joe Finn, noting that he had at least on one occasion mowed additional paths at the Lone Tree Hill property. The Commission noted that it would prefer to pay Mr. Finn for his work, Mr. Finn noted that he considers the work to be a tribute to the meadows. The Commission noted that it is important to value work done in the meadow, to allow for more accurate measurement of the costs involved in maintaining the ecosystem.

David Webster moved to contract with Joe Finn for payment of the mowing work. The motion was seconded by Jim Roth, and unanimously approved.

Community Preservation Act Discussion

Margaret Velie discussed revenues that could be expected with CPA monies. Ms. Velie noted that the approximate income to the Town for 2012 was expected to be approximately one million dollars, and that ten percent must be designated for land preservation uses. She noted that a Primary Land List could be prepared with funding, and that a Conservation fund could be established. Ms Velie also stated that the CPA would have administrative staffing, beginning in July of 2012.

UPLANDS SITE

The Commission discussed recent actions on this appeal. Tino Lichauco stated that Beverly Robie had written a revised opinion and that the decision had been affirmed by the Commissioner of the DEP. Mr. Lichauco noted that he had filed a motion challenging the impartiality of Beverly Robie, as she is employed by the DEP. He noted that a decision was pending on this issue.

Sue Bass noted that while there is no price tag on the land, Cambridge has apparently set aside CPA funds for the purchase of land. She expressed concern that Belmont has not showed "that it cares" and that a statement from the Selectmen or the CPA proponents would be helpful. Darrell King noted concern with the proximity of the sewer line to Little Pond. Darrell King also noted that a portion of the sewer line appears to be in Arlington, and he questioned whether this work would require a filing with the Conservation Commission.

After a roll call vote, at 8:20 pm, the Commission voted unanimously to go into executive session to discuss strategy related to litigation on the Uplands Project (OADR Docket No. Wet 2008-072-R:

The Commission came back into open meeting at approximately 9:25 pm, and the meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:26 pm.