

MINUTES Belmont Conservation Commission Meeting

Minutes of April 6, 2010 at Room 2 Town Hall at 7:00 P.M.

Attendance: Chair: Miriam Weil, Vice-Chair: Martha Moore; Members: Margaret Velie; Nancy Davis; Jim Roth; Tino Lichauco; Associates: Jeffrey North, Barbara Gardner. Agent: Mary Trudeau.

1. Joe Finn Bluebird nest program
2. David Nardone Belmont Hill School / Stantec Consulting
3. Kevin Young Belmont Hill School
4. Neal Winston Belmont Land Trust
5. Sam Knight Belmont Land Trust
6. Stanley Dzierzeski Coalition to Preserve Belmont Uplands

Review Minutes of March 2, 2010:

Tino Lichauco moved that the Commission approve the minutes, as amended, of the March 2 meeting of the Belmont Conservation Commission. Margaret Velie seconded, and the vote was unanimous (6).

Rock Meadow Sheep Project Discussion Update

Liz Shaw was going to try to keep sheep at Habitat, although one of the neighbors is concerned with noise from goats. A summer pilot is planned nonetheless.

Joe Finn Discussion and Presentation

Mr. Finn reviewed the Bluebird and swallow nesting program at RM, with references to his recent letters to the Commission about problems with bird boxes in the garden. Nancy Davis asked about debris piles left near nest boxes. Mr. Finn explained most recent mowing practices. Mary Trudeau explained the benefit of having mowing done by volunteers when there is no funding for paid mowing. NRCS only pays for mowing every other year. Mr. Finn already has permission to mow according to previously agreed specifications. Jim Roth motioned for authorization for Mary Trudeau to write a letter clarifying mowing policy and specifications by location for the bluebird project. The motion was seconded by David Webster. The vote was unanimous. Mr. Finn will return at the May meeting for further presentation of the blue bird program.

Conservation Restriction for Belmont Women's Club

Neal Winston explained the historical significance to the grounds and property. Energy and Environmental Affairs and Town Selectmen must approve. The Belmont Land Trust is asking for the Conservation Commission to "certify," as a valuable open space and a vista, that a conservation restriction would serve the public interest.

Martha Moore moved that the Commission approve the statement, seconded by Nancy Davis, and all (7) voted in favor.

Request for Determination of Applicability – Belmont Hill School Track Resurfacing project

David Nardone from Stantec Consulting and Kevin Young from Belmont Hill School presented the plans for resurfacing the school's athletic track, including a trench drain with stone, dry well and storage tank to remediate water challenges. David Nardone noted that all work is within the footprint of the existing track, or is proposed in non jurisdictional areas.

Jim Roth motioned for the Commission to issue a negative Determination of Applicability (Negative 3), with conditions, which was seconded by Margaret Velie, and the vote was (6) and one abstained.

The conditions are:

- Belmont Hill School must mark the limit of the 100-foot buffer to ensure non-entry during work or construction of the track and drainage system
- Belmont Hill School must notify Habitat (the abutter) of work to be done within 10 working days of permit being issued

Garden Update (Lawnmower)

Mary Trudeau explained that there are 13 or 14 vacated gardens. She discussed the assignment of the gardens to new members, and mentioned the planning and construction of the new garden plots, located to the east of the existing garden area.

The purchase of a lawnmower was discussed. The Commission approved the expenditure, with a price guideline of \$200 to \$300.

Water needs to be brought into the new garden area. This will be discussed at a future meeting, after the gardens are created.

Tasks:

1. Mary Trudeau will write up instructions for bird management and mowing for Joe Finn;
2. Mary Trudeau will write a letter to Joan Teebagy regarding the bee hives in Rock Meadow
3. Jim Roth and Nancy Davis will draft a framework for bluebird policy to help guide Joe Finn's efforts

Uplands (DEP 106-0072) update

Miriam Weil explained the letter to the editor that she, Tino Lichauco and Martha Moore drafted to respond to recent newspaper articles which inaccurately represented the appeal of the Superseding Order of Conditions, and the rationale behind the crafting of a

response. She noted that due to the size of the letter, the paper may consider it an article or opinion editorial.

Mr. Dzierzeski indicated that the interveners' plan to appeal. He urged the Conservation Commission to consider an appeal of the adjudication, as well.

The Commission went to executive session at 9:47 to discuss the appeal of the adjudicatory law judge on the Uplands project.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:05 pm