

APPROVED

MINUTES OF BELMONT CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Wednesday, May 17, 2006

PRESENT: Commissioners K. Baskin, M. Weil, M. Velie, N. Davis, Associate Commissioner R. Foster and Vicki Hibbard, Landscape Architect.

MEETING called to order by M. Weil at 7:10 PM in Conference Room 1 of Town Hall.

1. Request for a Determination of Applicability. Applicant Hibbard representing Charles and Ann Soldini at 37 Larch Circle described the proposed landscaping project, in which the only change from her previous visit to the commission is a golden weeping willow.

Baskin asked when would the project start. Ans: As soon as possible.

Weil said it seemed straight forward.

The commission voted unanimously to issue a negative determination with conditions.

THE CONDITIONS imposed by the commission were:

- a) The site protections outlined on the application will be followed.
- b) Any piles of dirt left exposed will be covered with a tarp.
- c) If the patio is dead level and if the stone goes in immediately, there will be little runoff.
- d) Hay bales will be put at the water's edge to prevent runoff and silt.
- e) Lawn will be repaired as needed.

Commissioners signed the consent sheet.

Hearing closed at 7:25

2. Old Business:

Donna Moultrup of the Health Department: Application for yearly permission for herbicide application to poison ivy was presented. Same as last year except one site has been eliminated. A discussion ensued on places where there is poison ivy in town. The Application was approved and M. Weil said she would get it back to Moultrup. Ended at 7:30

3. Grants for maintenance were discussed.

M. Weil mentioned a WHIP GRANT which would pay for mowing for 10 years. Lou Wagner a scientist, got one for Mass. Audubon. Deb Hartman was also mentioned to check it out.

K. Baskin asked if the \$500 that was left in the budget that could be spent.

Also discussed was the fact that matching funds were needed for some grants.

N. Davis discussed her research into control of invasives in Rock Meadow. She asked Lou Wagner for an opinion. He prefers to cut and treat stubs with herbicide. On smaller shrubs he prefers to

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spray (herbicide is less concentrated so less used). Jum Henderson from Lincoln had different ideas. He uses a daisy chain and pulls out the plants. Lou feels this disturbs the soil and exposes seeds. Pulling has to be done when ground is cold and partially frozen so as to not do too much damage. Another option is using a big machine which chops invasives at the surface as was done by Audubon. (Clear Cutting) Buckthorn resprouts.

A discussion ensued of various methods, residual maintenance problems and herbicides.

Weil wants to change the budget to make it more flexible.

R. Foster asked Davis what were the comparative costs of different methods. What would her recommended treatment cost?

Davis replied that it would take about \$800 to do the area around the parking lot. It's about \$65 an hour. And a plan for the whole area would be a good thing to get. Cost would be about \$1500.

Weil said the plan could be in a grant proposal application. The Corporate Wetlands Restoration Project was mentioned as a possibility. A Restoration Landscape Plan for Invasives was discussed.

Foster suggested professional organizations might volunteer their time for one of their yearly public service projects. Harvard School of Design is another possibility.

Velie will ask the Wildflower Society.

The aim is to get a free grant for a plan.

Baskin said that Lou Wagner is a good resource.

Foster said that any landscape plans and renovations have to be concerned with what the land is to look like in 20 years. The meadow will be mowed but how is the other vegetation and forest to evolve.

Conservation land is forever so a long term plan is important.

Ended at 8:00 PM.

4. New Business

Weil said that Ellen Maas reported that test pits are being dug in the Uplands. Weil said this should not go to Glen Clancy, but to the planner, Jay Szklot. The pits are not in the flood plain.

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5. Watershed Grant The Blair Pond Storm Water Management Plan was discussed. The commission did not get the grant the last time. (Sediment removal.) Stephanie Hanson will be asked why.

6. Baskin reminded the commission of the Open Meeting Law which must be followed. Commissioners can't meet in a quorum and make decisions. Also e-mail can not be used for discussions. E-mail can be used for information transfer such as "Read this before the meeting...." but no discussion. Also Executive Session can be used only for personnel issues, real estate transactions and litigation. (Memo from Sandra Curro) Adjourned at 8:15.

Respectfully Submitted

Ruth S. Foster

These minutes were previously submitted to
The Conservation Commission in May 2006.

This copy is being resubmitted on
November 30, 2006