

Belmont Conservation Commission Meeting May 3, 2005  
Chenery School Faculty Dining Room 7:00 PM

APPROVED

Attendance: Commissioners Baskin, Flamang, Smith, Curro, Davis, Moore, Weil, Associates Sanders, Bishop, Velie, King; Robert Schlager, President of Bulfinch, Applicant Doug Matson, Town Engineer: Glenn Clancy, citizens Susan Williams, and Darrell King, Madeline Hope from the Boston School of Herbal Studies

Minutes: April 5, 2005 distributed to be considered at next meeting. Minutes: April 26, 2005 meeting and executive session with Selectmen not yet distributed.

Robert Schlager, President of Bulfinch: re. reported cutting on the Uplands, During the past two weeks cutting was reported on the site and no one seemed to have any information about the work. Mr. Schlager reported that no work was done in the buffer zone, annual January "vista" pruning was done along the road, a fallen tree was removed from roadway, debris on roadway cleaned up along with leaves and sod that had been dumped there. Schumaker is the landscaper that has serviced Discovery Park for past 6 years, works there every Monday maintaining property, maintains 25' from edge of road. Mr. Schlager reported that a roadway project was being done at Rte 2 and Lake Street by Roads Construction Co, creating detention basin along Frontage road at Lake Street, cleaning out drainage ditches. It was reported that Ellen Mass reported cutting and clearing. There appear to be some communication problems regarding previous work by Mass Highway, current work for the wetlands restoration group to monitor flow and FAR invasives removal on the Uplands.

On April 28, 2005 Doug Matson reported chainsaw cutting in water filled ditch in area by Frontage Road/Acorn Park Drive entrance. It appears that this might be part of BSC group proposed work on wetland restoration project with Susan Redlick: Corporate Wetlands Restoration Program, to clear an area to install a monitoring instrument for flood plain elevation, a hydro flow meter, which appears to be on O'Neill's property. Bulfinch owns 37 acres and O'Neill 2 acres with an easement for access to Acorn Park Road. Survey point is six feet below pavement in wetland area near road entrance. Stew Sanders is ConCom representative to this project. Commission has not been notified of the details of the project. Schlager reports no further activities will occur in the wetland without notification to ConCom. ADL/DCR parking lot has been removed, hydroseeded. Carroll Johnson masterplan was not consistent with DCR plan. Bulfinch has been dealing with FAR, DCR, Coalition for Alewife, as well as Arlington ConCom re. half parking space to be removed. DCR wants 6 parking spaces instead of 24, there is a 3 year Order of Conditions (O/C) on parking lot.

ConCom needs a summary of activities FAR has planned that may impact land under our jurisdiction. Communication is needed.

As part of this project a monitoring post is to be installed by Stew Sanders in Little River with cutting required. Request Stew report to ConCom (as rep) on project proposals at next meeting. Source of cutting on uplands still unclear. Tim Higgins asked Bulfinch to construct path to T from Uplands and they are paving a bike path down Acorn Park Drive which dead ends at DCR land. Dan Driscoll's permission sought for paved bike 8' path to T stop. Two detention basins sized 50'x100' could be constructed in area of old parking lot at Bulfinch's expense in exchange for the 24 parking spaces. (FAR request)

33 Sandrick Road: Hearing on Notice of Intent: Applicant Doug Matson proposes a 20' x 10' deck and 7' x 7' hot tub to replace existing smaller entrance porch, stone wall defines property line on pond side, hot tub is only impervious addition. Construction will be on 5 3.5' deep concrete Sona tubes and there is an existing concrete pavement in the area under part of the deck. Discussion about need for siltation fence, haybales for foundation pilings excavation. Work is within 50-60' of pond edge including DCR land of 24' to 30' from bank. Because of the limited excavation, haybales not necessary but important to cover and manage the excavate to avoid erosion. KB moved to issue Order of Conditions. Unanimous approval. Copy needs to be sent to Dan Driscoll at DCR. 10 day appeal period before order is issued so construct at own risk. Inspection and permit filing comes after O/C issued. Hearing closed. Order of Conditions signed.

Madeline Hope: Boston School of Herbal Studies from Arlington. Letter received requesting permission to harvest herbs at Rock Meadow for educational purposes. Goal of school is to educate people about medicinal plants with stewardship ethic. Member of United Plant Savers, promoting restoration of endangered plants such as American ginseng, trillium, goldenseal, jack in the pulpit in woodland areas, sweet flag in wetland, to be done in collaboration with the Commission. They would gather only the tops of plants, often invasive or common plants: staghorn sumac (*Rhus typhina*), nettle (*Urtica dioica*) and ground ivy (*Glechoma hederacea*). Used for food, tinctures, salves and teas. Two apprenticeship programs, with classes in Arlington and Watertown. Praised the plant variety at RM. Most gathered is half a grocery bag per class for four times year for classes. Concern raised re: followup collecting. Class size from 8 to 16 each, gathering twice. Sumac: leaves, stems and berries. If plants are being lost at McLean, perhaps they could be transplanted to RM as a volunteer project. Next class is May 15-16 for nettles. July for tinctures. ConCom requested a schedule and update as project progresses for the first year and then ConCom will evaluate. Concern expressed about the public perception of gathering so name tags for collectors recommended. ConCom voted to support program for a one year trial.

Clay Pit Pond Restoration: from Burbank oil spill, Summary: Mike prepared original plan and list and Town worked from the list. After a review of the site by Flamang, Davis and Bishop, Bishop prepared an updated list of damaged areas from oil spill cleanup. Glenn requested and received assurance that the list of coir rolls and plant material is related to oil spill. Johanna Smith moved the ClayPit Subcommittee act on the report and get things ordered and planted as soon as possible. Unanimous approval. Budget is inadequate at about \$3000 and has to include shipping. Bishop, Davis, and Flamang will finalize order.

Rock Meadow: Miriam Weil led group of about 40 from Temple Beth El on Sunday May 1<sup>st</sup>, cleaning up invasives at RM with three goals: trash cleanup, invasives pulling and cutting. Previsit with Nancy Davis and John Maguranis targeted certain areas. Borrowed weed wrenches from MAS and trash pickers from FAR. Certain areas cut were tagged to be treated later. Much trash around parking lot including construction materials, bottles and cans, engine in the stream, car hood full of bullet holes. Much more work is needed. Regular volunteers needed as well as fundraising for signage, doggie bags and disposals, trash barrels. Miriam Weil hopes to team up

with Friends of Rock Meadow. For herbicide treatments on cut invasives. John Maguranis volunteered to trade classes at Habitat for herbicide applications. Miriam volunteered to work on Rock Meadow followup subcommittee investigating Landsake in Weston, an organic farm, that uses sheep to graze down meadow, and has brushcutter to rent, borrow or to hire to mow, and to find possible Boy Scout volunteers for further cleanups.

Rock Meadow Enforcement Rules: submitted to Lt Hoerr who suggested some public education. Miriam will write article for paper.

Rock Meadow Management Plan: needs to be pulled from website and revised.

Old Business:

ConCom meeting and hearing procedures discussed.

Bishop wrote letter requesting Selectmen appoint Open Space Plan Committee since OS plan expires 1/2006. Commissioners and Associates signed.

Lee Barber Property: dewatering again. Peg Velie reported dewatering earlier. Uncovered piled dirt over hay bales. Discussion over who has jurisdiction over enforcement. Mike Flamang and Nancy Davis will visit Barber site asap

Next meeting: June 7<sup>th</sup> 2005 Chenery Middle School Faculty Dining Room 7:00PM

Adjourned 9:40 PM

Corrected and submitted by C. Bishop

5/3/05 C. Observation Mtg.

Merrid King	Associate
Shanna Smith	member
Carolyn Bishop	
Kathy Baskin	member
Mike Flanagan	member
Miriam Weil	member
JOSEPH P. CURRO	MEMBER
GLENN CLANCY	OCD
Nancy Davis	member
ROBERT SCHLAGER	BULFINCH
Stewart Sanders	Associate Member
Markus Moore	member
Madelin Hope	Public applicant
DOUG MATSON	Public - applicant
Susan Williams	Public
Margaret Velic	Assoc. Member
Darrell King	TMM