

MINUTES Belmont Conservation Commission Meeting

Minutes of June 1, 2010, 2010 at Room 2 Town Hall at 7:00 P.M.

Attendance: Chair: Miriam Weil, Vice-Chair: Martha Moore; Members: Margaret Velie (arrived at 8:15); Nancy Davis; Jim Roth; Tino Lichauco; David Webster; Associate: Barbara Gardner; Jeff North. Agent: Mary Trudeau.

1. Mr. Joseph (Scott) Tellier – 157 Brookside Avenue

Review Minutes of May 4, 2010

Martha Moore moved that the Commission approve the minutes, as submitted, of the May 4, 2010 meeting of the Belmont Conservation Commission. Tino Lichauco seconded, and the vote was unanimous (6).

Cambridge City Council Resolution Discussion

At the May 4 meeting, the Commission had asked Mary Trudeau to call the Cambridge Conservation Commission to get clarification on the resolution. Mary spoke with the Cambridge agent, Jennifer Wright who noted that the resolution required no action from the Belmont Conservation Commission.

Request for Extension to Order of Conditions 106-0065, Woodfall Road

The property is a potential residential subdivision owned by the Town of Belmont. The Town had filed an Abbreviated Notice of Resource Area Delineation, and received an Order of Resource Area Determination approving a wetlands delineation several years ago. Approximately 18 months ago, the Commission had granted an 18 month extension to the Order Of Conditions. As this extension is due to expire, the Town is now asking for a 3 year extension.

The Commission discussed the implications of approving the outdated delineation, noting that additional information had been submitted that questioned the validity of the wetlands delineation. This information showed subsurface drainage connections that had been omitted from the approved site plans. This information could impact the assessment of areas determined in the original ORAD to be isolated vegetated wetland. A connection could require the Commission to view these areas as Bordering Vegetated Wetlands. Martha Moore noted that abutters had reported amphibians within some of the impounded waters on the site.

Jim Roth moved that the Commission approve an extension of the Order of Conditions to September 9, 2010. The motion included a request to the Town to provide a new wetlands delineation to accompany any future requests for extension of the wetlands delineation. Nancy Davis seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous (6).

Notice of Intent for 157 Brookside Avenue (106-102)

Scott Tellier represented his Notice of Intent filing for the abandonment of the existing cesspool and the proposed connection of the existing dwelling to the Town sanitary sewer system. The house, built in 1947, currently uses a cesspool sewage “system” Mr. Tellier is uncertain where the cesspool is actually located, although it is certain to be close to Beaver Brook. The Commission discussed the potential environmental benefits of the proposed improvements, the need to maintain existing vegetation at the edge of the various wetlands on the site, and the need to protect the work areas with erosion and sedimentation control barriers.

David Webster moved to issue an Order of Conditions with standard conditions and an additional condition requiring no permanent removal of vegetation, and replanting if any vegetation is disturbed. James Roth seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous (7).

Community Preservation Act, Grant Searching and Revising the Open Space Plan

Miriam Weil explained recent efforts to identify “poster projects” for CPA and OSP attention. Ideas include Claypit (recreation), pool (recreation, historic), land acquisition such as the Uplands preservation, and McLean barn restoration. The Commission noted that any other wooded or meadow private properties that could be protected from future development would be of interest to the Commission. The Commission discussed the potential conservation restriction on Belmont Country Club property, the Belmont Day School property and the potential for extending Beaver Brook reservation. Miriam Weil will report back to the Commission over the next several meetings.

Garden Update / Work Party on May 18, 2010

Barbara Gardner described the successful efforts that were accomplished on May 18th. Barbara noted that she attempted to offer a lesson to High School kids about the harm done by parties at the site. About 30 to 40 volunteers worked for several hours on the day, pulling vegetation and weeds from overgrown areas.

Rock Meadow Update: Mary Trudeau noted that almost all gardens have been rented, and that the few remaining gardens are being shown to people currently on the waiting list. Dogs remain troublesome, with occasional off leash issues. The Commission discussed the need for signage, noting that a freestanding laminated sign would be ideal at the various entrances to the Meadow.

UPLANDS (DEP 106-0072) update

The Commission went into executive session at 8:36 to discuss potential litigation on the Order of Conditions issued for the Residences at Acorn Park project.

