

Belmont Conservation Commission Meeting Town Hall Rm 2 June 6, 2006 7:00PM

Members: Miriam Weil, Kathy Baskin, Carolyn Bishop, Nancy Davis, Peg Velie, Joe Curro, Martha Moore

Associates Chris McVay, Stew Sanders

Office of Community Development Glenn Clancy, Jason Lederer: Circuit Rider from DEP, Director of DPW Peter Castanino

Public: Bruce Westgate and Gino Volpe from Rock Meadow Victory Gardeners, Roger Wrubel, Habitat/Mass Audubon Society

Minutes of May 2, 2006 Discussion on amendment proposed by Gordon Low. Minutes approved pending verification of impervious/runoff figures.

Minutes of May 17, 2006 approved as amended

Victory Garden: Bruce Westgate and Gino Volpe report. Fees have stayed at \$13 per garden. \$838.48 for water; for bulletin, supplies \$177.99 to total \$1015.47 Took in \$1013 in fees resulting in a \$3.47 loss. Extended thanks to DPW for compost and for a special once a year garden trash pickup. Potential of 120 gardens so perimeter gardens are going fallow with 85 active gardening plots. Some gardeners may have a double contiguous plot as they become available. Additional fee of \$12 had been charged in the past but not currently. Gino reported an increase in poison ivy and bittersweet, especially in the fallow garden plots. Board of Health has done some spraying in the past. Reserve funds are available in case of repair of water system. Possible donation of \$500 will be considered for Rock Meadow maintenance. Bruce will contact Miriam regarding this possible donation.

Gardeners are 60% from Belmont, 30% Watertown and some from Cambridge, Waltham, Somerville.

Clay Pit Pond Pumphouse project: Hearing opened at 7:40 PM on High School Playing field irrigation project. Existing irrigation supply system needs replacing due to age and repeated flood damage to the electrical motor. New pump will be submersible pump suspended under a float in the pond approximately 40 ft from the bank. The motors will be moved to the playing field behind the fence within a control cabinet. This project is being funded by assorted athletic organizations in Town. DPW will do the digging from pond to field at \$5000 and about \$3200 for field work .

Life expectancy for pump is about 10 years. Pipe will be suspended above the bottom of the pond. A trench a foot or so deep will be dug at the edge of the pond to cover the 12 inch diameter sleeve containing a four inch suction pipe plus a two inch electrical conduit. Screening of the intake will need to be backwashed for maintenance. Use from May to October. Herring run dates vary from mid May to mid June dependent on the water levels. Capacity of the system is the same as the current system.

Irrigation system has 15 stations and a certain number of heads, that number needed to figure capacity. Stations work in rotation sequentially, usually in the morning, running from 10-20 minutes. K Baskin moved to issue an Order of Conditions. The conditions will require: sedimentation controls on the bank, removal of excavate, use of wetland seed for bank restoration, placement of coir rolls against bank in disturbed areas with

some wetlands plants such as reeds, rushes, planted in wetland soil beside the roll as soon as bank work is completed. There should be no increase in withdrawal rates or in pumping capacity over present rates. The Commission requested a monthly estimate of average daily rate of withdrawal and there should be installed a well maintained water sensor to prevent overwatering. Project does not trip the Water Management Act (100,000 gallons per day for three consecutive months) Hearing ended at 8:12 PM

Jason Lederer: Circuit Rider North East Regional Office (NERO) for DEP, Wetlands Technical Specialist; Bureau of Resource Protection: Masters in Geology, reports that he is willing to attend Commission meetings, Uplands issue caught his attention. Willing to provide guidance on regulations and interpretation but cannot give direct advice. Distributed a survey in relation to DEP new Wetlands Integration Data Base: EDEP, electronic filing of Orders of Conditions, etc., link projects with a GIS system to identify changes in wetlands. Survey includes information on filings, facilities, resources for the ConCom.

Questions for Jason: on local wetlands bylaw re. limited resources at DEP New commissioner is committed to outreach, rebuilding formerly eliminated Circuit Rider program, MACC helpful with model bylaw, can refer us to Towns with wetlands bylaws that seem excellent, With more towns adopting bylaws, does this mean less adjudication from DEP? DEP will uphold local bylaws but enforce state laws. Few simplified review cases because Town bylaws are more strict than simplified review cases. This simplified review was to relieve departmental work after a 29% cut in DEP as a whole.

Question: Areas in town with isolated lands subject to flooding often where there were former streams or culverts: If intermittent stream with BVW in open area there is a 100 ft buffer zone. (?) Isolated Land Subject to Flooding (such as above a culvert) would have a buffer zone but is not considered isolated if hydraulically connected. Roger Wrubel visited Woodfall Rd area after storms and observed it flooded but it soon emptied, probably through the culvert of Prentiss Brook.

Funding: The law states that filing fees should go into a Conservation Commission fund to make up for the loss of budget line item. (This must be addressed by the Commission with the Town since funding has been lost.)

He emphasized the burden of proof is on the applicant that a resource is not presumed important or impacted by the project. It is reasonable for Commission to require delineations marked on site, and for notification to Commission of activities on site.

Question: re. figuring non-point source runoff, Jason: CC can deny a permit for insufficient information under "No significant adverse impact", Glenn will check for DEP comments if any. Jason will get info on who reviewed the Notice of Intent. Concern raised about long term hearing with change of personnel on the Commission.

Condition: if applicant deviates from the approved plan, Commission must be notified.

ConCom wants to check a disputed project plan for location of silt fence, location of removed trees, can issue an enforcement order. Site visit should be planned with plan and Order of Conditions in hand.

O/C in the future should always include permission for entrance on property although such entry is allowed by State law/regs.

Rock Meadow: Discussion continued about the Victory Garden fees. Discussion whether fees should be raised to help fund the maintenance of this public land. Concom could: increase fees gradually, perhaps to \$25 and then to \$50, to raise funds for maintenance; perhaps change scale of fees for residents or non-residents; find out prices of gardens in other communities. Habitat charges \$75 in addition to MAS membership which includes water and mowing surrounding area. It was reported that gardeners have girdled trees to kill them near garden area. C Bishop will draft letter to gardeners on these issues and submit for Commission approval.

Need for standing subcommittee, including citizens, on Rock Meadow issues. Deb Hartman is working on a grant proposal and contacting Waverly Landscaping about mowing. Chris is willing to recruit from the Kendall neighborhood. Miriam Weil and Chris McVay volunteered to work on this. Monica King may be interested in participating.

Rock Meadow Regulations and Enforcement: Bishop and Weil will try to meet with Donna Moultrup, John Maguranis and a representative from the police to clarify the regulations and enforcement.

Friends of the Western Greenway: Roger Wrubel: FWG includes: MAS, Waltham Land Trust, Belmont Citizen's Forum, Lexington Citizens for Conservation. Goal to create a Greenway Trail to be marked with a blaze: three inch square sign "Western Greenway: Friends of the Western Greenway" Habitat, McLean, Rock Meadow, Met State, Waltham, Lexington, Beaver Brook would be part of the Greenway. Would work with ConCom re. trail in Rock Meadow. Not all properties allow biking so uses might vary. Would consist of about a 12 mile loop. Requested and received permission to come back with designated Rock Meadow trail, final sign and come to some agreement on plan. For the past three years MAS has been doing a breeding bird survey and wants to expand the program to Rock Meadow. Savannah Sparrow and woodcock are two species of interest.

Open Space Plan: still being worked on by Jay Szklut, Miriam, Carolyn and Stew.

Membership: Kathy Baskin, Stew Sanders and Chris McVay have chosen not to be re-appointed.

Office of Community Development: unable to find a suitable candidate for assistant Town Engineer but may look for a part time Conservation agent, 15 hours a week.

30 Howells Road: 10 PM hearing was opened and continued to August 1, 2006 at 7PM. Hearing continued at 10:05PM after discussion of next meeting date.

80 Clifton Street: parking on Fletcher Road side of property in violation of agreement and water from the new driveway interceptor is seeping through the stone wall. Glenn will contact homeowner.

240 Somerset: concern re tree removal. Davis took photographs of tree loss, stump removal, dirt dumping on site, short siltation fence with unidentified substance on it. Site visit planned on Friday, June 9th at 8 AM.

Uplands: Martha Moore addressed the Fay, Spofford and Thorndike report which contains recommendations that may be helpful to the ConCom when the O'Neill project comes to the CC. Points out that the slightly less 5000 sq ft disturbance of the project will still have a negative impact on the wildlife habitat. Alternatives analysis is also recommended.

Peg and Nancy will meet with Town Treasurer about ConCom fees in special account in accord with state law to be used for Conservation activities.

Meeting adjourned at 10:50 PM

Next meeting: August 1, 2006 at 7 PM or July 11 at 8 PM depending on availability of members and notices filed.

Submitted by Carolyn Bishop