

**MEETING MINUTES**  
**Belmont Conservation Commission**  
**July 26, 2022 Meeting Minutes**  
**Virtual Meeting**  
**7:00 pm**

**RECEIVED**  
**TOWN CLERK**  
**BELMONT, MA**

DATE: December 14, 2022  
TIME: 9:03 AM

**Attendees:**

Members: Jim Roth (Chairperson); Jeff North (Vice Chairperson); Christopher Morris; Margaret Velie; Prassede Velle; Miriam Weil; Dan Nolan

Others: Paul McManus; Kelly Cardoza; Tom Shutz; George Kokoros; Joe Fruman; Brian Timms; Jeffrey Drucker

**Call to Order:**

The Meeting was Called to Order at 7:06 pm by Chair Jim Roth.

**Review of Minutes:** The Commission reviewed the minutes of the May 24, 2022 minutes and based on a motion duly made, and seconded, the Commission

VOTED           to approve the May 24, 2022 meeting minutes

The Commission reviewed the minutes of the June 21, 2022 minutes and based on a motion duly made, and seconded, the Commission

VOTED           to approve the June 21, 2022 meeting minutes

**Discussion: Fish Sampling in Clay Pit Pond**

Mary Trudeau noted that a local student was working with the MassDEP to conduct sampling of fish tissue in Clay Pit Pond. She noted that the testing was independent of the School Departments consideration of the use of water from Clay Pit Pond for irrigation of playing fields. The testing will be done by the DEP, and results given to the Commission. In particular, the sampling is looking to evaluate the presence of mercury; celenium; and chloridane within the fish population.

**Discussion: Rock Meadow Herbicide Applications**

Dan Nolan reported on the recent discussions with Chris Polatin and Mandy Minichello concerning the use of herbicides on non native and invasive plant species at Rock Meadow. Dan noted that the discussion included a review of the Backspray and Boom Sprayer application techniques, noting that while the original proposal consisted of hand applied herbicides, Chris Polatin is suggesting that the expansive stands of Black Swallowwort can be more effectively

treated by a Boom Sprayer application. Dan noted that there are hives within twenty five feet of the spray zone.

Dan detailed the impacts of the boom spraying technique, noting that the spray width is up to twenty feet in distance. He noted that the spraying can only be done on days with less than 5 mph winds, and that the half life of the trichloper product is about sixty days. Dan noted that the use of the Backspray technique remains a possibility, but that additional costs may be incurred as the work area has expanded, since the project was originally approved. Dan noted that an August 2022 treatment remains possible, with a back pack sprayer, but that Chris Polatin has noted that this is not the most cost effective technique.

### **Public Meeting for Request for Determination of Applicability: 350 Prospect Street**

Paul McManus, and Kelly Cardoza, represented the Belmont Hill Schools Request for Determination of Applicability. The RDA proposed a wetlands delineation on land owned by the applicant, at 350 Prospect Street.

The parcel of land consists of several residential properties, slated for redevelopment as a Facilities Building and parking area for the Belmont Hill School. Paul McManus described the site to the Commission noting that wetland resource areas had been delineated at the south end of the parcel. Noting that any proposed work has been designed to be non jurisdictional, he noted that the Determination of Applicability would establish the wetland and jurisdictional buffer zones on the parcel.

The Commission briefly discussed the proposed redevelopment, with the applicant noting that the work is designed to be non jurisdictional, and will not be reviewed by the Belmont Conservation Commission. The project will be reviewed by the Belmont Planning Board, and the storm water management system evaluated as part of that permit application.

The Commission requested a site visit to inspect the field conditions, and the applicant agreed to meet on Tuesday, August 16, 2022 at noon.

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Based on a motion duly made and seconded, the Commission

**VOTED** to continue the public meeting process until the August meeting of the Commission.

The motion passed unanimously.

### **Continued Public Hearing for Notice of Intent: 49 Robinwood Road**

Tom Shutz, represented George Kokoros, submitted an amended site plan and description of work in the continuation of the Public Hearing. Mr Shutz presented a proposal for an expanded work area, and expanded mitigation within the Riverfront Areas. The updated mitigation consists of (56) plants, within 2075 sf of offsite mitigation and 875 square feet on on site mitigation. Additional storm water mitigation is provided, through the construction of an infiltration system to be secured to roof leaders, and the use of permeable pavers on the proposed patio.

Based on a motion duly made and seconded, the Commission

**VOTED** to close the public hearing, and issue an Order of Conditions regulating the work as proposed.

**Additional Discussions:**

The Commission resumed the discussion of the invasive plant control techniques at Rock Meadow. The Commission noted that a comprehensive Master Plan would be useful to determine mowing programs; path control; and land use patterns. Jeff North noted that Lone Tree Hill utilized the skills of Parterre to develop a similar management plan, and that it has been useful in determining priorities and work programs.

The Commission noted that developing an RFP for a masterplan would enable the Commission to request funds from the Judith K Record fund.

**CPA Project Discussion**

Margaret Velie reminded the Commission of upcoming deadlines for CPA proposals. The Commission discussed the submission of a request to create a land purchase fund, to be seeded with CPA funding. Ms. Velie noted that deadlines for preliminary applications are in September, and final applications due in December for 2023 funding.

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Commission

**VOTED** to adjourn the meeting at approximately 9:30 pm