

**MEETING MINUTES**  
**Belmont Conservation Commission**  
**February 1, 2022 Meeting Minutes**  
**Virtual Meeting**  
**7:00 pm**

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

DATE: July 27, 2022  
TIME: 3:01 PM

**Attendees:**

Members: Jim Roth (Chairman); Jeff North (Vice Chairman); Margaret Velie; Dan Nolan; Prassede Vella; Miriam Weil

Others: Judy Singler; Tom Schutz

**Call to Order:**

The Meeting was Called to Order at 7:05 pm by Chairman Jim Roth.

**Review of Minutes:** The Commission reviewed the minutes of the December 14, 2021 meeting. Based on a motion duly made and seconded, the Commission

**VOTED** to approve the minutes of the December 14, 2021 meeting

The motion was unanimous to approve the minutes.

**Discussion: Invasive Plant Species Treatment at Lone Tree Hill**

Jeff North presented a proposal for the hand treatment of non native and invasive plant species to be done by a volunteer group, led by Leonard Katz, at properties under the care and control of the Land Management Committee. Mr. Katz proposes to remove, by hand, a variant of non native and invasive plants, with a focus on a stand of Japanese Knotweed (*Polygonum cuspidatum*). The goal of the task is to limit the spread of an existing patch of Knotweed, with an approximate dimension of 20 feet by 30 feet. Jeff noted that the work would consist of approximately 3-5 cut treatments per year, with the intent of discouraging expansive or vigor within the plot.

The Commission discussed the proposal, noting that soil disturbance will be minimal or non existent, and that the work did not appear to require a formal permit application. The Commission requested that their agent, Mary Trudeau, send a letter to Mr Katz authorizing the limited treatment of non native and invasive plant species through hand cutting.

Based on a motion duly made and seconded, the Commission

**VOTED** to authorize Mary Trudeau to send a letter of permission on behalf of the Commission, authorizing hand removal of targeted species of non native and invasive plants by a volunteer group led by Leonard Katz.

The motion was approved unanimously.

**Public Meeting for Notice of Intent Application: 49 Robinwood Road (106- )**

Tom Schutz, of Goddard Consulting, represented the homeowner in the filing of a Notice of Intent application for construction of an addition to an existing dwelling, located within the Riverfront Area, associated with the Clematis Brook, and jurisdictional buffer zones to Bordering Vegetated Wetlands. Mr. Schutz noted that the Clematis Brook, a perennial waterway, was located on land of others to the northwest of this property. He presented a proposal for a 685 sf addition to the existing home, located largely within the footprint of an existing deck and lawn areas. Mr Schutz proposed restoration of altered Riverfront Areas to a native condition through the installation of (40) shrubs, and the removal of an existing shed, also from within Riverfront Area resource area. Mr. Schutz noted that the bulk of the restoration planting is located on the land of others, and remedies a historic alteration of Riverfront and buffer zone areas.

The Commission questioned the location of the restoration areas, noting that the Belmont Country Club would need to be a party to the restoration, as they are the owners of the property proposed for restoration. Mr. Schutz noted that the groundskeeper had emailed him and granted approval for the restoration. Mary Trudeau noted that a signed, updated Notice of Intent would be required to officially sanction work on land of others.

Ms Trudeau also noted that the proposed restoration does not meet the performance standards requiring the restoration of the innermost, and most sensitive portions, of the Riverfront resource area. Mr. Schutz responded that the regulations allow off site mitigation. Ms Trudeau, and members of the Commission stressed that the restoration should be in the most sensitive locations, and ideally on the property owned by the applicant. The Commission noted that on site mitigation was possible and meaningful in this instance.

The Commission asked that the applicant reconsider the configuration of the restoration area, with the intent of providing mitigation for the most sensitive locations. The Commission also noted that the application does not show compliance with the Town of Belmont Storm Water Management regulations.

Mr Schutz noted that the DEP has not issued a file number for the project, and that he will be requesting a continuance of the public hearing to the next meeting of the Belmont Conservation Commission.

Based on a motion duly made and seconded, the Commission

**VOTED** to continue the Public Hearing of the Notice of Intent Application for 49 Robinwood Road until the next meeting of the Commission.

**Additional Discussions:**

**Parking Lot at Rock Meadow**

The Commission discussed the proposed parking lot and storm water improvements at Rock Meadow. Mary Trudeau noted that it did not appear that any pandemic funds were currently available to the Town of Belmont that can be applied to the design and construction of an improved parking facility. Christopher Morris noted that if the Office of Community

Development could utilize a consulting engineering firm to prepare a proposal for design services, it would allow the Commission to plan more effectively for the project funding sources. Mary Trudeau agreed to pursue a proposal, with the assistance of Glenn Clancy. She noted that finding funding for the site engineering seemed feasible, with the assistance of the office of Community Development.

### **Clay Pit Pond**

Judy Singler asked the Commission about the mowing of Clay Pit Pond by the DPW, noting that it appears that the DPW mows to the Bank of the waterbody. Mary Trudeau agreed to discuss this with Rick Bemis and Mike Santoro.

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Commission

**VOTED** to adjourn the meeting at approximately 8:30 pm