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**MEETING MINUTES**  
**Belmont Conservation Commission**  
**April 8, 2014 Meeting Minutes**  
**Room 2, Town Hall**  
**7:00 pm**

2014 JUL 28 AM 8:29

**Attendees:**

Members: Jim Roth (Chairman); David Webster; Margaret Velie, Faustino Lichauco, Miriam Weil, Jeffrey North, Charles Chiang  
Conservation Agent: Mary Trudeau

NON BCC / OTHERS: Tim Irving (Western Greenway Trail 5K)

7:05 **Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by Jim Roth, Chairman.

**Approval of Minutes March 4 and March 31, 2014 Minutes**

Miriam Weil moved to accept the minutes of the March 4, 2014 meeting as written and to approve the minutes of the March 31, 2014 meeting as amended; Jeff North seconded the motion, and the minutes were unanimously approved.

**Race Around Waltham: Western Greenway Trail 5K race**

Tim Irving requested the Commission approve the use of the trails at Rock Meadow as part of a 5k trail race along portions of the Western Greenway on October 5, 2014. Mr. Irving noted that he expected approximately 200 runners and approximately 50 staff persons as well as a temporary water station along a portion of the course. Mr. Irving noted that the race had been held in Rock Meadow in 2013, and that he believed there were no adverse impacts noted to the paths or meadow lands. Mary Trudeau and David Webster concurred with this assessment, noting that the impacts of the race were indiscernable when viewed several days after the event.

Mr Irving stated that runners are required to stay on trails during the event, no matter the conditions, and that all trash and signage generated would be removed within hours of the completion of the race.

David Webster moved that the Commission vote to allow the trail race on October 5, 2014 with the condition that all trash be removed for off site disposal at the end of the race; that the runners be advised to stay on the trails; and that the water station will be taken from the site at the completion of the race. The motion was seconded by Margaret Velie and the vote was unanimous to approve the motion.

Mary Trudeau agreed to send Tim Irving a letter authorizing the use of Rock Meadow for the trail run on October 5, 2014.

#### **Lone Tree Hill Updates:**

Jeffrey North discussed the most recent meeting of the Land Use Management Committee. Jeff noted that Jeff Collins has completed a land management plan for the Lone Tree Hill property and that the document will be used to determine needs of the property. The Commission noted that the plan prepared for Rock Meadow is now almost ten years old and may require updating at some point.

#### **Rock Meadow and Garden Updates:**

Mary Trudeau discussed the Garden Work day scheduled for April 12, 2014 and the continuing popularity of the Gardens. The Commission discussed the use of organic pesticides at the Garden, and requested that if there is a licensed applicator amongst the gardeners, that their skills be utilized in administering organic topical agents. The Commission did not agree to sponsor the use of any herbicides or pesticides.

Mary Trudeau discussed the need for fundraising to pay for upcoming mowing costs at Rock Meadow. She noted that the Friends of Rock Meadow group uses the Belmont Citizens Forum to allow for 501(3)(c) status donations to be accepted. Mary Trudeau noted that the Friends of Rock Meadow funds are distributed by Debbie Hartman, and that the Commission does not manage the account.

#### **Bee Keeping at Rock Meadow:**

Mary Trudeau noted that Dan Talbot and Cheryl George have applied for a bee keeping permit for the summer of 2014. She stated that neither has completed a bee keeping course, or has actual experience with hives. The Commission noted that there is a policy requiring completion of a bee keeping course for any bee keepers at Rock Meadow.

#### **Underwood Pool**

Mary Trudeau noted that she had no new information on the status of the Underwood Pool project. The Commission asked that Ms. Trudeau schedule agenda time with the Pool Committee, if the Committee agrees that discussions would be helpful.

#### **Community Preservation Act Projects:**

The Commission discussed the seven (7) proposals submitted in response to the RFP for the Intergenerational Walking Path Master Plan at Clay Pit Pond. After careful review of the various proposals, review of references and credentials, the Commission voted for each of the proposals. This non binding vote ranked the top three proposals as 1. BETA Group; 2. Thomas Wirth Associates; 3. Elena Saporta Landscape Architects.

David Webster moved, seconded by Margaret Velie, to accept the proposal prepared by the BETA Group for the development of a Master Plan for an Intergenerational Walking Path at Clay Pit Pond. The Commission voted unanimously to approve the motion.

**Adjourn**

Jeff North moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:30 pm; Margaret Velie seconded, and the meeting was adjourned at 9:30 pm.