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MEETING MINUTES
Belmont Conservation Commission
October 28, 2014 Meeting Minutes
Art Gallery, Third Floor, Homer Building
7:00 pm

Attendees:

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

Others in attendance: Don Chiafaro; Tali Chiafaro; Chaz Chiafaro; Ed George; Joan George; Jacqueline Agular; Lydia Silverstro; Ellen Kaplan; Malcolm MacKenzie; Katie Buttonweiser; Roger Wrubel; J. Legne; Linda Levin-Schezz; Jeff Levin Schezz; Lisa Moulis; Al Gala; Richard Kirby

- 7:15 Jim Roth opened the public meeting. The Public Hearing for the ANRAD filing at 178 Marsh Street (Chiafaro property) was reopened. Representing the applicant were Richard Kirby (LEC) and Al Gala (project engineer).

Richard Kirby reviewed the materials submitted to the Commission in recent weeks. He noted a series of DEP Data Forms and photographs documenting his evaluation of the soils between the Isolated Land Subject to Flooding. Rich Kirby also noted that a detailed response to comments from the Commission had been submitted in a letter report dated September 24, 2014 and prepared by Gala Simon Associates. Gala Simon Associates also submitted a letter dated October 22, 2014 responding to questions submitted on October 15, 2014 by the Agent. During discussions of Mr. Gala's letter, when David Webster indicated he could not find page (2), Mr. Gala indicated that it was missing and produced copies of this page for the Commission. A revised set of drainage calculations for the Isolated Land Subject to Flooding (dated September 24, 2014) was also added to the record. Additional information provided to the Commissioners included the Adjudicatory Decisions for Tassinari, Bradshaw, Concord Rail Trail; and Linda Cintron. Each of these cases contained discussion of intermittent stream characteristics. The site plan submitted with the ANRAD was revised to September 24, 2014 and included changes in wetland flag locations. The DEP file number record from the DEP was also submitted to the Commission, with the accompanying commentary from the Department.

Rich Kirby noted that, in his opinion, the centrally located vegetated wetland would be considered an Isolated Land Subject to Flooding under the guidelines given in the Regulations and Policies promulgated under the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act. He also stated that to expedite the discussion, the applicant had agreed to designate the Woodbine Road depression as an Isolated Land Subject to Flooding. Rich Kirby contends that each of these areas is isolated, and is not connected to the downgradient Bordering Vegetated Wetlands.

The Commission discussed the relevance of the adjudicatory decisions concerning the presence of a definite channel which may be indicated in the field by a continuous line of observable features such as a thin or narrow band of wetland indicator species. The Commission noted that a characteristic of an intermittent stream is a "narrow strip of wetlands vegetation", and that this does exist between the central ILSF and the down gradient BVW. Rich Kirby argued that a stream must flow to be considered a resource area and stated that he had not seen the stream flow during a recent "one year" storm event. He also submitted data documenting his assertion that there are no hydric soils in the area between these two features, based on his evaluation of a self designated transect between the areas.

Discussion of the October 22, 2014 letter from Gala Simon Associates pursued the possibility of an annual connection between the central vegetated wetland/ILSF and the Bordering Vegetated Wetland. Al Gala stated that the area does overflow in a one year storm event, but does not believe that the flow reaches the Bordering Vegetated Wetland.

Margaret Velie questioned the variations in the September 24 drainage calculations versus the March 21, 2014 calculations with respect to the Woodbine Road depression. She noted that the volume attributed to the area had changed significantly, and questioned the deviation.

The Commission discussed hiring a third party consultant to review the filing and additional materials submitted to the Commission. Rich Kirby asked the Commission to delay a decision until he had the opportunity to submit a written testimonial of the information he reviewed with the Commission this evening. The Commission agreed to this request. Rich Kirby also asked to be scheduled on the next possible agenda of the Conservation Commission. The Commission offered to start the third party consulting process now to expedite the process, however, Mr Kirby declined stating that he would prefer to submit additional information to the Commission prior to the Commission making a decision on a third party review. The Commission discussed the scheduling of the next meeting, and agreed to meet on November 20, 2014.

At the applicant's request, the Public Hearing was continued until November 20, 2014.

8:30 Review of Meeting Minutes of October 7, 2014

The minutes of October 7, 2014 meeting were reviewed. Margaret Velie noted a grammatical error on the second page. Miriam Weil moved to approve the minutes as amended and the motion was seconded by Margaret Velie, and the motion passed unanimously.

8:35 David Webster noted that the Belmont Serves Work Day at Rock Meadow had been a success. Invasive plants were culled; weeding was done; wood chips were spread along paths.

The Commission discussed the status of the Open Space and Housing Land Inventory and requested that Mary Trudeau obtain a graphic showing the parcels. Mary agreed to contact Angie Vincent of VHB and email the map to the Commission.

Jeff North reported on the Lone Tree Hill and Land Management Committee work. He noted that there would be a Belmont Serves work crew for this site on October 13, 2014.

Mary Trudeau noted that the mowing of Rock Meadow was done in by early October. She noted that the mowing was done exceptionally well, with the edges of the meadow pushed to the limit of the forested perimeter. David Webster noted that the mowing encroached on a wetland area, along the boardwalk, and Mary Trudeau agreed that the mowing was a bit aggressive in the areas adjacent to the boardwalk. She agreed to provide better supervision next year.

Mary Trudeau and Margaret Velie described their site visit to inspect the work at the Uplands site, off of Frontage Road. They agreed that the erosion controls had been installed, and that any deficiencies noted were minor. Mary Trudeau noted that she had sent an email to Mike Howard and Rachel Freed documenting the minor concerns.

The Commission noted that the BETA Group presentation for the **Intergenerational Walking Path Project at Clay Pit Pond** was held on October 15, 2014 in the Selectmen's Meeting Room. All agreed that the proposed plan exceeded expectations and that the BETA Group had listened to local comments and concerns.

Adjourn

Tino Lichauco moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:30 pm; Charles Chiang seconded the motion, and the meeting was adjourned at 9:30 pm.