

MEETING MINUTES
Belmont Conservation Commission
March 10, 2020 Meeting Minutes
Room 2, Town Hall
7:00 pm

RECEIVED
TOWN CLERK
BELMONT, MA

DATE: April 1, 2021
TIME: 8:40 AM

Attendees:

Members: James Roth (Chair); Jeff North (Vice Chair); Miriam Weil; Charles Chiang; Christopher Morris

Others: Mandy Minichielli; Peter Rosenmeir; Brian Fitzgibbons; Caitline Deunnebier

The Meeting was convened at 7:00 pm.

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Commission voted to approve the meeting minutes of the January 7, 2019 Meeting, as amended in the meeting room.

Discussion: Bee Keeping Permits for Summer 2020

Mandy Minichielli, the head Bee Keeper, gave a brief summary of the past summers hives. She noted successes and failures amongst the bee keepers who included: Peter Rosenmeir; Kaitlin Duennbier and Brian Fitzgibbon; and herself. She also noted that she has discussed the potential for a couple of additional hives with a prospective bee keeper, Jennifer Teale. The bee keepers noted that the hives continue to add pollinators to Rock Meadow, and that while some hives are more successful than others, honey is being produced in several of the boxes.

Based on a Motion duly made and seconded, the Commission voted to issue the following permits for hives in the 2020 growing season:

Mandy Minichielli	(up to 3 hives);
Peter Rosenmeir	(up to 4 hives);
Kaitlin Duennbier and Brian Fitzgibbons:	(up to 4 hives)
Jennifer Teale:	(up to 2 hives).

Discussion Item: Sheep Grazing at Rock Meadow during 2020 growing season

The Commission discussed the benefits and impacts of the past sheep grazing pilot programs at Rock Meadow. The consensus of the Commission was that the grazing would be more effective at controlling poison ivy, and other noxious weeds, if more goats were included in the herd. The Commission noted that while an application for grazing has been sent to the Commission, the herder seemed uncertain in her commitment to graze at Rock Meadow this summer. The consensus of the Commission was to leave the matter on the table, unless the proponent was willing to revisit the mix of grazing animals (sheep and goats).

Discussion Item: Amanda McCarthy and the Lion's Club project

Mary Trudeau and Jim Roth presented a conceptual project to be done by the Lion's Club and Amanda McCarthy at Rock Meadow. Amanda McCarthy is a parent of Cleo Theodoropoulos, a Belmont child who recently lost her life after a brief bout with cancer. The project would ideally consist of a pond viewing platform constructed by the Lion's Club and an adjacent memorial seating area. This would allow Cleo's friends a place to commemorate her life, and provide long term environmental contact with the pond for students and other residents of Belmont. Jim Roth noted that the Lion's Club is interested in the project, and Mary Trudeau agreed to follow up with the Theodoropoulos/McCarthy family.

Land Management Committee Update:

Jeff North reported that the Land Management Committee has approved funding for a 3-5 year plan for the control of non native and invasive plant materials.

Signage at Rock Meadow:

The Commission discussed the need to update the signage at Rock Meadow. Current signage is faded, and is not found at all entrances to the Meadow. Mary Trudeau agreed to pursue this work.

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Commission **VOTED** to adjourn the meeting at approximately 8:30 pm