

McLean Land Management Committee

3/2/06

1. Minutes approved from November 1, 2005 meeting
2. Discussion re: Beaver Brook Project – replanting effort by DCR – planning project. Ellen will send message to Lauren re: keeping us advised.
3. Funds from Cosman sale only to be used for lands transferred to Town.
  - Of \$20,000 endowment, approximately \$4,682
  - Necessary to finance this portion of endowment – decision to postpone decision on how to handle additional funds for management of public access lands owned by McLean
4. Telecommunications Tower – work is proceeding; within one week Tower will come down
5. Cemetery – plots will go on sale march 13. Last of grading will take place in spring
6. Con Cam is proposing new wetlands bylaw
  - Martha Moore presented – public hearings will be held March 2, 29, and April 10
  - Water supply in Belmont primarily originated in Belmont and by the time it gets to Clay Pit Pond, it is in terrible shape
  - Goals of bylaw are to deal with:
    - Pollution
    - Flooding
  - Based on model and working with Kate Connelly(?) from Keppleman & Page
  - DEP is spending less time on adjudicating cases
  - Leaves more of work of Con Coms to Towns
  - Approximately 192 Towns have local bylaws
  - New protection would be for spring
  - Non-certified canal pools, intermittent streams, wetland buffers, wetland buffers are very important
  - Bylaw would designate buffers as resource areas
    - No building in first 25 feet of buffer
    - No permanent structures in first 50 feet of buffer
  - Approximately 5% of Town homes contain wetlands
    - Would also cover 35 properties not currently covered – typically on Belmont Hill
  - Two springs – Belmont Springs – not sure where other one is

- Under bylaw – dissatisfied person would have to go to civil court
  - Thinks citizens have generally been satisfied with work of Con Com
  - Will be a new fee structure
  - Will provide for fees for consultant work
  - Think it will improve health of streams and ponds in Belmont
  - Wes – could affect trail management issues
  - Based on MACC model bylaw
    - But not patterned after any particular Town by-law
    - Plan is to go to this April's Town Meeting
    - March 10 is closing date for warrant
    - Task Force – Mary Davis, Chris McVeigh, Carolyn Bishop, and Martha Moore
7. Letter from Gene Recard(sp) recommending we talk to Jeff Collins from Mass Audubon re: who might serve as Land Management Manager
- Roger Wrubel reported that Jeff Collins is looking for additional information on what we might be looking for
  - Wes – looking for advice on next year issues re: vegetation and planting
  - Also need to think about scope of services for Land Manager
  - Wes – we need to do a lot of this work on an annual basis
  - Carla and Andy Healy will put together proposal for RFP to work plan for the upcoming season
  - Committee is not yet ready to set what we are looking for in the way of a Land Manager
  - VOTE – Charge subcommittee to put together work plan for this growing season
  - Scope of services should include estimate for cost of implementation
  - RFP will look for response within two weeks
  - Land Management Committee to make decisions within one month to 6 weeks
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8. Ellen – need outside person to come in and evaluate trails and trail network
- Gene Recard has recommended Heather Klisch (sp?) from Appalachian Mountain Club to do work
  - We will probably need to put together RFP for this service. Ultimately will need to engage in public process
  - Recard Fund has offered to provide some funding for this purpose
  - Question of whether evaluation will address issues of access
  - Liz Allison – Belmont Neighborhood Council also would be willing to provide names and some funding to help process
  - Scope of services needs to be reviewed to make sure we are addressing the right issues
  - Richard Pechette – accessibility is a very important issue and we should have an opportunity for a specific discussion of this issue

- Ellen to circulate the scope of services for comment
  - Wes – parking is very important as issue for use of trails
  - Possible to connect Audubon with McLean, with Rock Creek
9. Roger Wrubel – presentation of draft grant proposal going to Partners for Fish & Wildlife Program Manager
- Proposal would be jointly submitted by Mass Audubon and Town of Belmont
  - VOTE – to pursue grant proposal  
Ellen participating as committee representative to work with Audubon
10. Kit – grant proposal to Boston Foundation
11. Kit – also suggest committee consider a name for open space
- Question raised whether Highway Department could remove some of the trees that have died or fallen over
  - Liz Allison thinks we should consider selling naming rights.