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Sent: Wednesday, August 11, 2021 2:41 PM
To: Cushman, Ellen <ecushman@belmont-ma.gov>; Tom Grimble <tom@nemba.org>
Cc: Alex Tzelnic <atzelnic@belmontday.org>; Brendan Largay <blargay@belmontday.org>
Subject: Belmont Day School Trail Use Requests

To the Lone Tree Hill Land Management Committee,

Alex and I appreciated the opportunity to speak with you this Spring and look forward to keeping the channels of communication open. We would love to be included on your next meeting agenda.

Belmont Day School is fortunate to have this beautiful town-owned property near our campus. Along with other members of the public, our students—about 40% of whom are Belmont residents—enjoy using the trails for their intended recreational purpose and to learn about the natural environment.

As we discussed when we last met with you, Belmont Day requests that the Land Management Committee allow use of the trails by students for Hiking/Nature Walks, Trail Running, and Mountain Biking.

All activities will take place in small groups of students with adult supervision.

Hiking/Nature Walks

Occasional hikes or educational walks with Belmont Day students focus on observations of science and nature along the trails during the school day. These typically involve students in groups of about 10-12 accompanied by a teacher or staff member over a period of 30-40 minutes. We respectfully request that the students continue to be allowed to hike or walk on the property during the school day.

Trail Running

The BDS middle school cross country running team also uses the trails for recreational purposes. In addition to team members running on the trails for practice (typically, M-Th 3:30-4:15pm), the team has used the trails for 5 fall meets per year. We request the continued use of the trails on five separate occasions every fall between September 15 - November 15 on a Wednesday or Thursday afternoon from 3:30pm - 4:30pm to hold interscholastic cross country events. The events would include approximately 20-40 student athletes that would start running on the BDS campus and be spread out in small groups by the time they enter the trails. A limited number of wayfinding cones would be placed on trails during

the event and will be removed immediately after completion of the meet. These events have been happening for the past 14 years. Specific dates for the fall events can be communicated to the committee in June of each year. We would like to continue this use of the Property, and respectfully request the Committee's approval.

Mountain Biking

For the last 10 years BDS has had a mountain biking club that makes use of trails on the Property that are designated for that purpose as "shared use" trails. This non-competitive recreational activity generally occurs in 9-week sessions and involves about 20 students and 1-4 adults who ride up to 4 times per week for about 45 minutes. This activity benefits the individual participants by providing them with healthy outdoor exercise and teaching them about responsible biking etiquette and land stewardship. Riders are taught to share the trails with others, give pedestrians the right of way and use appropriate caution and speed. Our review of the Conservation Restrictions and the Town Bylaws confirms that the public use of Committee designated trails for non-motorized bicycling is an allowed activity. To the extent that the Committee feels that this use by BDS nonetheless requires its approval, we respectfully request that approval.

Thank you again for your willingness to consider these requests. We look forward to the chance to meet with you to discuss them, and we hope this finds each of you well as the school year approaches.

Respectfully,

John O'Neill, Belmont Day School Director of Athletics

Alex Tzelnic, Physical Education teacher and Mountain Biking coach

Cc: Brendan Largay, Head of School

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Director of Athletics

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