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MEETING MINUTES
Belmont Conservation Commission
April 10, 2018 Meeting Minutes
Conference Room 13, Homer Building
7:00 pm

Attendees:

Members: Jim Roth (Chairman); Charles Chiang; Christopher Morris; Margaret Velie; Miriam Weil

Others: Mary Trudeau; Joe White; Angelo Fiorenze; Kelly Cardoza; Paul McManus; Erik Rhodin; Jimmy Ganiastos; Rich Kirby (LEC); Dan Nolan (Associate Member); Ellen Schreiber; Michael Rose; Andrew Cable; Gayle Koch; Lissa Young; Roger Wrubel; Hamid Ornit; Deepak Kothavade; Sharda Kothavade

7:05 Review of Minutes of March 6, 2018 meeting

The Commission reviewed the minutes of the March 6,, 2018 meeting. Corrections were made to the description of the PQ Park notice.

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the vote was to approve the minutes as amended.

7:10 Discussion with Belmont Country Club: Minor Modification to the OOC

Kelly Cardoza, representing the Belmont Country Club (BCC) reviewed the Order of Conditions and the minor modifications to the proposed work program to dredge the waterway running along Concord Avenue.

Kelly noted that cleaning the cross culverts would require “jetting” towards the Club property, and noted that the OOC prohibited this activity. The Commission agreed that this language was overly restrictive, and that limited jetting towards the north would be acceptable after the contractor has loosened the sediments within the twin 54 inch culverts.

Kelly also asked for relief from the Special Conditions limiting refueling to non jurisdictional areas. The Commission agreed that refueling of the pumps to dewater the work area could be done if a primary containment was used to catch any spillage.

The BCC also asked for the Commission to consider the use of a single, larger pump for dewatering instead of the two inch diameter pumps specified in the OOC. The Commission agreed to the use of a 4 inch diameter pump, with the condition that it be monitored, and a back up pump kept on site in case of failure. The BCC noted that it

may be necessary to run the pumps 24 hours a day, and that they would be monitored throughout.

Kelly noted that the OOC required the work to be done during a period of low flow, and she stated the intention of the Club to begin work in a low water condition, during a period of expected fair weather.

As required in the OOC, the BCC presented a plan for environmental monitoring of the work area. Paul McManus, of EcoTec, stated that his firm would be responsible for the oversight, and that turbidity monitoring would be done frequently during the start up of the dewatering process, and decline to approximately three times a day after the dewatering cleared the initial sediments. It was agreed that dewatering flows would be directed to a settling tank, and allowed to overflow into the receiving waterway.

The Commission discussed the ability of the contractor to comply with the Water Quality Certification requirement that “no free water” be present in materials being hauled on public roads. Jimmy Gianistos of CJ Mabardy, the prospective contractor, agreed to the condition, noting that his firm was capable of doing the hauling from Concord Avenue to the disposal site in Winchendon, MA.

The Commission asked Mary Trudeau to ascertain that David Wong of the 401 WQC program was in agreement with the turbidity numbers specified in the OOC. She agreed to have this conversation prior to issuing the letter approving the modifications.

Kelly Cardoza estimated that the entire project would span approximately three (3) weeks.

Based on a motion duly made and seconded, the Commission approved the applicant’s request for minor modifications to the Order of Conditions. The vote was unanimous.

7:30 Public Hearing: Notice of Intent for removal of trees at 7 Oakmont Lane, Belmont

Rich Kirby represented the homeowners, Deepak and Sharda Kothavade. The Notice of Intent proposed the cutting of live, damaged and dead trees from within a wetland resource area. Mary Trudeau noted that at her site visit, there were several failures of the erosion and sedimentation controls regulated in the Order of Conditions, and excessive amounts of fill material stockpiled on the lot. Erik Rhodin noted that the contractor was no longer employed by the applicant, and a new contractor was being sought.

The Commission questioned the need for removal of the trees, noting that snags or trunks could be left for wildlife habitat. Gayle Koch, of 47 Greensbrook Way, noted that a large tree had fallen from this property onto a portion of her home, and she noted that she was in favor of removing any unstable trees.

Lissa Young, another abutter, noted that the tree clearing on the lots was excessive, and exceeded her expectations based on the preliminary permits issued for the project. She noted that trees within a wetland are a common resource and provided screening, wildlife habitat and played an important part in the neighborhood ecosystem. She also noted that not all of the trees slated for removal are a threat to property.

Roger Wrubel of 165 Slade Street noted that the removal of the trees is not compliant with the original Order of Conditions issued for the property. He asked that the Commission require remediation in the form of additional tree planting.

The Commission requested that the applicant and their arborist be present at a site visit on April 23, 2018.

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the vote was unanimous to continue the public hearing to the next meeting of the Belmont Conservation Commission.

The Commission also requested that David Scott, proponent of the subdivision, be sent a Notice of Non Compliance for the conditions observed on Lots 1 and 2.

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the vote was unanimous to authorize Mary Trudeau to send David Scott a notice of Non Compliance for ongoing work on Lots 1 and 2, Oakmont Circle.

Notice of Intent Application for the Intergenerational Walking Path and Veteran's Memorial at Clay Pit Pond (106-137):

Angelo Firenze reported that the Veterans memorial group had met with the Historic Districts Commission. He noted that there were areas of disagreement concerning materials to be used on the conflict stones, but that the Veteran's have chosen an imported, polished black onyx.

The Commission reviewed bench styles for use in the park. The consensus continues to support the style bench currently in use in Belmont Center. The Commission discussed two styles of mounts, noting that the preferred bench can utilize either mounting. The mounting suggested by BETA Group is to set the benches on posts, and the alternative includes setting the benches on concrete pads.

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the vote was unanimous to issue an Order of Conditions for the project, utilizing the finalized site plans prepared by the BETA Group.

Notice of Intent Application for the Pequossett Park Improvements (106-136)

Mary Trudeau noted that the applicant has not submitted the drainage calculations requested by the Conservation Commission. Christopher Morris expressed frustration with the process of obtaining additional information concerning the design of the storm water management system. Mary Trudeau agreed to continue to pursue the preparation of calculations; a Storm Water Checklist; and a design that is compliant with the local and State storm water regulations.

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the vote was unanimous to grant the applicant the requested continuance of the Public Hearing to the next meeting of the Commission.

Adjourn

Upon a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:15 pm; as well as a second to the motion, the meeting was adjourned.