

MINUTES Belmont Conservation Commission Meeting

Minutes of January 24, 2012 in Room 4 Town Hall at 7:00 P.M.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM.

The next meeting is February 7, 2012.

Attendance: Chair: Miriam Weil, David Webster, Tino Lichauco, William McCants, Jeff North, Margaret Velie, James Roth and Mary Trudeau (Agent).

Gregory LaBombard; Joan Teebagy; Liz Shaw; Ellen Mass; Alison Lenk; Eileen McGettigan; Brian LaBombard

Approval of December 6, 2011 Meeting Minutes

David Webster moved to approve the minutes as amended. The motion was seconded by Faustino Lichauco, and the motion passed unanimously.

Approval of January 17, 2012 Meeting Minutes

Jeffrey North moved to approve the minutes as amended. The motion was seconded by William McCants, and the motion passed unanimously.

Snow Storage at Rock Meadow Discussion

David Webster described the events leading up to the cancellation of the snow storage meeting on January 11, 2012. David noted that guidance from Melissa Cryan, at EOE, indicated that snow storage would constitute a change in land use, under Article 97, and would require an extensive permitting process, including an Act of the State Legislature. David noted that Peter Castanino withdrew his proposal after reviewing Melissa Cryan's comments.

Community Preservation Act Discussion

Margaret Velie discussed a handout showing a sample of projects that could be funded under the CPA. The Commission decided to set a special meeting on February 7, 2012 to focus on the CPA, and the development of priorities and guidelines for the use of CPA funds.

Request for Determination of Applicability for Removal of Backstops in Rock Meadow

Gregory LaBombard presented a Request for Determination of Applicability to remove (2) historic backstops from within portions of Rock Meadow. Mr. LaBombard used a power point presentation and handouts to describe the proposed removal of the baseball backstops. He described the removal of the various components, the use of various hand

tools and a “come along” winch, as well as the need to avoid Poison Ivy in his work program. Mr. LaBombard noted that there would be limited removal of vegetation required to access and disassemble the structures, and that stumps and woody material would remain within the adjacent woodlands. He also noted that compost could be used to backfill the footings of the structures, after removal of the vertical supports.

Mr. LaBombard described the process of Scout approval, noting that this would be his Eagle Scout project, implemented by his scouting troop.

Jim Roth moved to issue a Negative (3) Determination of Applicability, the motion was seconded by William McCants, and was unanimously approved by the Commission.

Grazing Proposal at Rock Meadow:

Liz Shaw presented a proposal to implement a Pilot Program to explore grazing goats and sheep at Rock Meadow. The grazing is designed to supplement the current mowing and invasives plant species control program. She described a program that would utilize approximately two acres of woody meadow, with approximately ¼ of this acreage being grazed at any one time. This program of targeted grazing would occur approximately (3) times during the 2012 growing season, with each grazing consisting of approximately 2.5 weeks. Fencing would be temporary and moveable, and there is no requirement for a shed or building to house the animals. Liz Shaw noted that dogs are an issue with the safe grazing of goats, and that public outreach and enforcement of the leash requirements at Rock Meadow are important.

William McCants moved to approve a Pilot Program, as described by Liz Shaw, for the grazing of goats and sheep at Rock Meadow during the 2012 growing season. The motion was seconded by Jim Roth and was unanimously approved.

Administrative:

The Commission discussed the election of a vice-chair for the Conservation Commission, coming to a consensus that it would be advantageous.

William McCants nominated David Webster as vice-chairman of the Commission. The motion was seconded by Jim Roth, and was unanimously approved.

Uplands Project Discussion:

The Commission discussed the Superior Court remand of the OADR Docket No. WET-2008-072-R (DEP File Number 106-0075). Faustino Lichauco summarized the recent motions filed by the Commission, including: a motion to vacate judgment; a motion to appeal the decision; and a motion to waive the fees associated with the motions.

Ellen Mass discussed Tom Bracken’s request for a stay of action with Judge Haggerty, and noted that Scott Horsley is preparing an Environmental Impact Assessment for the Uplands proposal.

David Webster moved to enter Executive Session to discuss litigation strategy as being in Open Meeting could jeopardize the case. Jim Roth seconded the motion, and a roll call vote ensued. The vote was unanimous to enter Executive Session at 9:05 pm.

The Public Meeting was reconvened, briefly, at 9:35, by a unanimous roll call vote of the Commission.

Jim Roth moved to adjourn the Public Meeting at 9:36 pm.

MEETING NOTICE
Belmont Conservation Commission
January 24, 2012 Agenda
Town Hall, Room 2
7:00 pm

AGENDA

- 7:00 Call to Order
- 7:10 Minutes of December 6, 2011
- 7:15 Snow Storage at Rock Meadow discussion
- 7:20 Community Preservation Act project priorities and criteria
- 7:30 Request for Determination of Applicability: Back Stop Removal at Rock Meadow (Gregory LaBombard-Eagle Scout Project)
- 7:45 Liz Shaw: Grazing Proposal for Rock Meadow: Pilot Program for Summer 2012
- 8:15 UPLANDS (DEP 106-0072) update and discussion
Executive Session is possible to discuss litigation strategy of Superior Court
Action related to Superseding Order of Conditions appeal
- 8:45 Adjourn

ATTENDANCE
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
JANUARY 24, 2012

Gregory LaBombard

JOAN TEEBAGY

Liz Shaw 65 Partridge Ln

~~Ellen Nash~~

Allison Jenk - Coalition to Preserve the
Belmont Uplands -

~~Elken McGettigan~~

BRIAN LABOMBARD

Jeffrey North

William McCarty

~~Faustin Lidano~~

Margaret Vohi

Miriam Weil

Mary Trudeau

Don Com

Com Com

~~Can Can~~

Can Com

Com Com

Can Com Agent