

BELMONT CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES

APPROVED

January 6, 2004

Members Present: M. Flamang, M. King, M. Weil, J. Smith, J. Curro, K. Baskin.

Associate Members Present: M. Velie, S. Sanders, N. Davis, M. Moore.

Additional Attendees: See attendance sheet.

The meeting was called to order at 7:08 p.m. by M. Flamang.

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of November 20, 2003, were submitted and approved with revisions only to correct spelling errors in the names "Darrell Oakley" and "Epsilon Associates."

Old Business - O'Neill Property

M. Moore reported on the most recent Planning Board meeting. It has been continued until this month. The meeting was closed for receiving public comment, but they will continue to request and receive written comments from the public until that next meeting.

G. Clancy will ask Darrell Oakley to submit a plan showing the revised wetland delineation. Other than the new delineation, he is not sure of the status of the DEP appeal. We are still waiting for Rachel Freed to issue a decision.

M. Moore suggested that the Commission respond to the O'Neill letter to the Planning Board regarding the Commission's position on the residential project. K. Baskin asked whether anyone noted any inaccurate statements in O'Neill's letter. She did not recall that they made any misstatements of the Commission's position. M. Flamang did not, either. He invited any Commission member who thinks a response is necessary to bring it up.

S. Sanders suggested that the Commission send a letter requesting that the O'Neill people consider opening up the pipe under Acorn Park Road near the intersection with Frontage Road.

Old Business - Burbank School Oil Spill

J. Curro provided an update on the oil spill cleanup. They have made a lot of progress, but the partially dead tree at the east end of the pond is a problem. The dead branches will release oil back into the pond, and they will disintegrate if they are washed.

M. Moore asked why they are seeding with fescue when that is not a wetland plant. R. Foster explained that it is a native grass which can be used to stabilize soil until other larger wetland plants can take root. Carolyn Bishop will send information about a red fescue to M. Flamang. We have asked Joel Mooney to make sure that fescue is planted under the coco matting. M. King pointed out that easy maintenance is important for the town. M. Flamang pointed out that the Commission will discuss the future plantings when the next notice of intent is submitted. There won't be any landscaper and the Commission should really determine what gets planted there. J. Curro said that they will start the excavation and removal of the loosestrife on Monday.

Old Business – Wellington Brook Culvert Grate Replacement

M. Flamang outlined the problems at the site. G. Clancy stated that he has talked to the contractor, who promised that they would patch the asphalt of the parking lot where it was damaged. They stated that they had trouble keeping the pile of soil controlled because they had so little room. The catch basin is done, and now the chain link fence and the grate itself must be completed.

Public Hearing – Notice of Intent – 133 Brookside Avenue (7:45)

Larry Cohen, architect, appeared for the applicants, Steve Hale and Debbie Hartman. They are expanding their kitchen and the room above, on the side of the house toward Brookside Avenue and away from Beaver Brook. There will be a four foot deep crawl space under the expansion. The excavation will be covered with tarpaulin until the construction is done, and then back-filled. Rain gutters will run from the back of the roof to the front and into a catch basin on the street side of the house.

Larry Cohen stated that the net loss of permeable area is actually a little less than 99 square feet, because there is a concrete apron under the stoop. S. Sanders asked about the volume of the drywell. L. Cohen didn't know, saying that is not his area of expertise. R. Foster suggested that we prescribe the standard size drywell for that size of roof. G. Clancy can help them calculate the right size. He will use the soil type maps and determine the appropriate size.

N. Davis suggested that the Commission require that the bituminous driveway be replaced with more permeable material. M. Flamang stated that the Commission will not require that as part of this project.

The Commission approved the Order of Conditions with the standard conditions, with the following additional conditions: the drywell must be of appropriate size to recharge the roof runoff from the new roof and the owners must minimize the use of pesticides, herbicides and commercial fertilizer.

R. Foster suggested that we educate all property owners regarding the use of pesticides, herbicides and commercial fertilizer, perhaps by including a flyer in the monthly municipal electric bills.

New Business (8:10)

Russ Cohen has asked to speak at a Commission meeting about gathering edible plants at Rock Meadow. J. Smith and R. Foster expressed reservations about encouraging the public to gather and eat potentially dangerous plants. J. Curro thought that we should listen to him. K. Baskin agreed that we should listen, but perhaps he would be asked to address some of the dangers as well. N. Davis pointed out that if a significant number of people try to forage for edible plants at Rock Meadow, it could be a burden on the property. M. Flamang said that the presentation will occur at the Commission's next meeting.

The meeting was then adjourned at 8:33 pm. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 3, 2004.

Prepared by:
Johanna Smith