

BELMONT CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES

October 1, 2002

Members Present: M. Flamang, K. Baskin, J. Curro, M. Weil, R. Foster, M. King, J. Smith.
Associate Members Present: M. Velie.

Additional Attendees: Glenn Clancy (Belmont Office of Community Development), Nancy Dorfman (League of Women Voters).

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m.

Minutes

The minutes for the meeting of September 10, 2002, were submitted for approval. Corrections were noted as follows: Under "New Business," the fifth paragraph should be revised to read as follows:

M. King pointed out that the contractor should do the work at the direction of the Commission, and should not stop work (as they did last year when the tractor got stuck). If a third party interferes, the landscaper should contact Glenn Clancy.

The minutes for the meeting of September 10, 2002, were accepted with corrections as noted.

The minutes for the meeting of December 4, 2002, were submitted for approval. It was noted that a period should be added at the end of the seventh sentence in the paragraph titled "Hearing for 150 Somerset opened." The minutes for the meeting of December 4, 2002, were accepted with correction as noted.

Introduction

Nancy Dorfman was introduced to the Commission. She is with the League of Women Voters and will be attending Commission meetings regularly for the League.

Old Business - Update on Use and Management Plan

M. Flamang reported that he has nothing to distribute on the use and management plan at this time.

Old Business - Mowing at Rock Meadow

M. Weil reported that she walked Rock Meadow with N. Davis and R. Wrubel, and she now has a good idea what needs to be done there. She has begun to contact landscapers for quotes. She noted that some of the Brookside Avenue residents have mowed around the swing set up there and have clipped the buckthorn. A question was raised: Should the neighbors be authorized to do more up there, after we've had the brush cut back? M. Flamang pointed out that the Commission should make clear that the area is under the Commission's jurisdiction and any work needs to be authorized by the Commission. M. Weil will report further when she has received estimates from contractors.

G. Clancy reported that Dante Muzzioli has already done the mowing at Rock Meadow and submitted a bill for \$950. G. Clancy suggested that we get proposals for a few alternatives, such as mowing the whole meadow, mowing half the meadow, etc. We will then have a basis for submitting a budget request. M. Flamang stated that he will prepare a draft report and it will include a budget request.

M. King reported that a dead deer was found at Rock Meadow, and it was covered with ticks. Should the public be notified? M. Flamang thought that the Health Department was notified. It is their responsibility to

determine whether the public should be notified.

The planned workshop on invasive plants took place last weekend. M Weil suggested that we do more workshops and get volunteers to pull or cut invasive plants at Rock Meadow.

Old Business - Update on Hill Estates Riverfront Activities

G. Clancy reported that he checked the materials stored at Hill Estates today. The piles are smaller but they are not completely gone. He suggested that he send another letter to Hillside Garden Supply Co., commending them for their progress toward removing those materials and asking them to finish the removal. After a brief discussion, the Commission agreed that G. Clancy should send such a letter.

Old Business - 155 Somerset Street

G. Clancy reported that the architect has provided a map and a description of how the work has been modified. The consensus of the Commission was that no action was required on the part of the Commission.

New Business - Certificate of Compliance - 82/84 Agassiz Avenue

The owners of 82/84 Agassiz Avenue have completed the proposed work. An appeal by abutters was partially approved by the DEP. As a result, certain changes were made in the plans. G. Clancy reported that the work was completed in compliance with all conditions imposed. The Commission voted to issue the requested Certificate of Compliance, provided that certain continuing conditions were specified in the Certificate, as follows:

"Applicant(s), owner(s) and their successors and assignees shall maintain all [dry wells] in good working order, in order to avoid their failure and/or detrimental impacts to on-site or off-site resource areas, and shall maintain the integrity of vegetative cover on the site."

"Applicant(s), owner(s) and their successors and assignees shall perform such maintenance with a minimal disturbance of the resource and resource buffer areas, and shall not otherwise disturb or fill said areas in any manner."

K. Baskin abstained from voting because she arrived after the discussion of the matter began.

New Business - 40 Howells Road

A neighbor has complained that tree clearing has occurred at 40 Howells Road. The Commission discussed the possibility of calling the owners in to a meeting to remind them of their responsibilities. R. Foster stated that the Commission should adopt some guidelines as to tree removal, because the wetlands regulations do not address the subject (including the manner of removal). M. Flamang pointed out that the regulations make clear that if you remove trees in a resource area you are altering the resource area. R. Foster offered to draft some guidelines in this regard for the Commission's consideration.

New Business - Catch Basin Stenciling Program

A resident of Belmont has called Donna Moultrup and offered to have his daughter stencil catch basins for the Town. She is a high school student who would do it without pay as a community service. K. Baskin said she organized a stenciling program for Newton and the town provided the paint. They used white paint, but yellow could be used as well. M. Weil knows the coordinator of the Belmont High School community service program and offered to make a phone call to her. M. Flamang suggested that the Commission grant a Certificate of Appreciation to all those who participate. We could grant them to those who volunteer to cut invasive plants as well.

Other New Business

M. Weil noted that there are huge dirt piles at the high school ballfield site. If they are uncovered, shouldn't we be concerned about dirt leaching into Clay Pit Pond? G. Clancy said he has already spoken to them about it.

M. Flamang distributed a draft form of boilerplate conditions that can be used for all Orders of Conditions. These were recommended by the Massachusetts Association of Conservation Commissions. We could use the form as a checklist when issuing Orders of Conditions. Commission members will review the form and return any comments to M. Flamang through G. Clancy at Town Hall, or at the next meeting.

M. Weil noted that the Rock Meadow sign at Mill Street has fallen down. G. Clancy will have the Highway Department put it back up.

The meeting was then adjourned at 8:30 p.m. The next meeting will be held at the Faculty Dining Room at Chenery Middle School on Tuesday, November 5, 2002.

Prepared by:
Johanna Smith