

BELMONT CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES

APPROVED

October 5, 2004

Members Present: M. Flamang, K. Baskin, N. Davis, M. Moore, and M. Weil

Associate Members Present: R. Foster, M. King, S. Sanders, and M. Velie

Additional Attendees: G. Clancy of the Office of Community Development, Sue Bass, Barbara Passero, and Darrell King. See attendance sheet.

The meeting was called to order by M. Flamang.

Wetlands Bylaw

The Commission discussed the importance to the town of adopting a wetlands bylaw. Some of the reasons include; the fact that the state appears to be backing off on enforcement, the town could receive fees to hire consultants to help evaluate projects, the town could increase its authority to correct problems, and the town could increase the fines for noncompliance. The Conservation Commission will attempt to have a bylaw ready for the April Town Meeting. There was discussion of the previous attempt to adopt a bylaw and its failure to be adopted. The previous attempt was before the Rivers Protection Act was enacted. R. Foster pointed out that the town has several hundred owners of land that is either in buffer zones, wetlands, or within 200' of a stream. M. Flamang stated that we need to understand the process and what the timetable would be. He also stated that we need to understand what the controversial areas are likely to be. Additionally he noted that among "professionals" Arlington is thought to have a very strict bylaw, including insuring that they look at current conditions. S. Sanders stated that framers of the Constitution's original concept for land ownership included the idea of stewardship.

A motion was made and approved that the Conservation Commission form a sub-committee to study the feasibility of and then formulate a Wetlands Bylaw.

A meeting of the Wetland Bylaw sub-committee was scheduled for Wednesday October 13 at 7 or 7:30.

Acorn Park

Glenn Clancy distributed the recently issued Superseding Order of Conditions, dated September 30, 2004. Michael Flamang will discuss the decision with Town Counsel. There are 10 business days to appeal the decision.

Library

Concern was raised about a recent newspaper article. It was agreed that a letter would be sent to the newspaper explaining that the CC is eager to work with the library committee and that the CC remains open minded to the siting of the library. Kathy Baskin explained that she has been

on the meetings to select the architect that will do the feasibility study for the library. There appear to be five alternatives they are looking at and that about one third of the committee's emphasis is on the siting.

Environmental Fair

The Fair is Saturday October 23rd. Various members of the CC will be manning our booth throughout the day.

McLean, Junction Brook

Barbara Passaro came before the CC to explain that she was concerned with the lack of vegetation along Junction Brook where the work on the June sewage spill occurred. It was her understanding that McLean would clean up the spill, the brook, and reestablish vegetation along the bank. G. Clancy will speak with Andy Healy, McLean's Facility Manager.