

MINUTES Belmont Conservation Commission Meeting

Minutes of November 9, 2010 in Room 2 Town Hall at 7:00 P.M.

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

Attendance: Chair: David Webster, Tino Lichauco, Martha Moore, Jeff North, Margaret Velie, James Roth; Associate: Barbara Gardner.

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| 1. Bill McCants | 83 Dean St. |
| 2. Alberta Natoli | 99 Oliver Road |
| 3. Gerard Natoli | 99 Oliver Road |
| 4. Dan Scharfman | School Committee |
| 5. Allison Lenk | CPBUWN / Friends of Alewife |
| 6. Ellen Mass | CPBUWN / Friends of Alewife |
| 7. Joe Homyak | Daedalus, Inc. |
| 8. J. Stewart Roberts | Johnson Roberts Associates |
| 9. Matt Lowrie | Chair, Library Trustees |
| 10. Mary Keenan | Library Trustee |
| 11. Maureen Connors | Library Director |
| 12. Stanley Dzerzeski | Coalition to Preserve Belmont Uplands |
| 13. Rick Pichette | Historic District Commission |
| 14. Michael Smith | Historic District Commission |

Review of Minutes of October 5, 2010

James Roth moved that the Commission approve the minutes, as amended, of the October 5, 2010 meeting of the Belmont Conservation Commission. Margaret Velie seconded the motion, and the minutes were approved.

99 Oliver Road – Gerard Natoli discussion

Mr. Natoli introduced himself and presented his experience and curriculum vitae and experience in affairs of the Town of Belmont. Mr. Natoli explained that he and his wife Alberta purchased their house in 1968. He surmised that the field stones at the pond bank were added in the latter 1950s. The Natolis have not changed or enlarged, filled or removed any material from the bank. Mr. Natoli contended that any work done was for repair, not for alteration or new construction. The stone wall has been in place for approximately 60 years, and pre-dates the WPA. Mr. Natoli engaged a mason to repair the wall earlier in 2010. Tino Lichauco commented on the legal case summary, Town of Bourne vs. Hilda E. Austin, stating that the case indicated that repair of an existing wall had been allowed by the court. James Roth moved that the Commission rescind the Enforcement Action, seconded by Martha Moore, and the vote was unanimous.

Library Relocation Discussion

Mr. J. Stewart Roberts gave a presentation about the initial stages and steps in planning a new library. Possible sites for the new structure include the playing field across Concord

Avenue from the present library and the area adjacent to Claypit Pond on the corner of Concord and Underwood streets. Mr. Roberts' presentation focused on the latter site. The plan would be to keep the new building entirely away from the buffer zone. David Webster explained that if activity and building is not conducted within 100 feet of the pond, then the Commission does not have jurisdiction and no action is required. The discussion was of a general nature and parties attending were principally interested in hearing from the Commissioners of any obvious concerns before more detailed planning and evaluation.

Community Preservation Act voter approval

Discussion ensued about the value of a representative on the CPA Committee when it is formed. The Commission requests an agenda item for the next Conservation Commission meeting for Barbara Gardner to present open space plan developments and related open space activity.

Belmont Serves Day October 11, 2010

A very successful, fun-filled community event was enjoyed by Commissioners Webster, Roth, North and Gardner, who supervised teams of about 80 volunteers. The combined teams removed invasive plants around the drive, parking lot and barn. They spread wood chips, trimmed overgrowth around the boardwalk, cleared a culvert, and completed a host of other tasks.

Belmont Uplands Letters and Status of Building Permit

Martha Moore updated the Commission on recent correspondence and suggested that the Belmont Conservation Commission engage in communication with the Cambridge Conservation Commission to stay informed of developments affecting both communities. She suggested two Commissioners contact the Manager / Director of the Cambridge Commission in the next month. Also, Mary Trudeau shall be consulted to learn of past communication between the two Commissions.

Ellen Mass, President of Friends of Alewife, addressed the Commission to express her support for the Commission in its efforts related to permitting of the Uplands building project. Allison Lenk and Stanley Dzerzeski also spoke in favor of opposing the project.

Martha Moore proposed a letter from the Belmont Conservation Commission (BCC) to the Cambridge Conservation Commission (CCC), requesting to be included on the CCC agenda at a future CCC meeting to discuss changes in associated plans since project approval and to coordinate future plans. James Roth seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous. Martha Moore and Margaret Veile will draft a letter and review same with Miriam Weil for the Chairperson's signature.

Naming of the McLean Open Space

Rick Pichette and Michael Smith from the Historic District Commission requested to have the question of whether and what to re-name the property put on the agenda of the next BCC meeting. They explained that no public comment on the question has been received by the HDC despite a planned vote on November 10th. David Webster moved

that the issue of naming the property formerly known as “McLean” be added to the agenda for the next meeting. Martha Moore seconded the motion and vote was unanimous.

The Commission moved to executive session at 9:05.

Executive Session UPLANDS (DEP 106-0072) update

Tino Lichauco presented a review of recent and related developments. The Commission’s Rule 12C motion is due November 22nd and he has sent a second draft to Commissioners.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:50.