

BELMONT CONSERVATION COMMISSION  
MEETING MINUTES

APPROVED

December 26, 2003

Members Present: M. Flamang, J. Curro, J. Smith.

Associate Members Present: N. Davis.

Additional Attendees: Joel Mooney, Joyce Munroe, Arthur Katz, Carolyn Bishop.

This emergency meeting was convened on the shores of Clay Pit Pond at 3:00 pm.

Joel Mooney reviewed the work that had been done to date. He requested that the Conservation Commission issue an emergency Order of Conditions so that work can be completed as the DEP requested.

The absorbent pads at the perimeter of the pond will absorb most of the oil. Some of the vegetation and soil can be "washed," but that will wash the oil into the water. The oil will then be skimmed (vacuumed) off the water. This should be done to save the largest trees and bushes. Some of the contaminated soil can be excavated and removed. Trees can be taken out if necessary, particularly dead trees and branches. As long as it stays warm, the oil can be skimmed off the top of the water.

The Commission viewed a portion of the bank of the pond and areas in which loosestrife grows were pointed out to Mr. Mooney. Some of that should be removed, taking care to contain the seeds so they are not released during removal. N. Davis and C. Bishop pointed out where relatively new plantings had occurred. Those should be preserved if possible.

M. Flamang said that the Commission can and will specify special conditions in the emergency order. J. Mooney requested as many tools as possible available to do the work quickly. J. Curro stated that three areas need to be focused on: the water, the vegetation in the water, and the vegetation and soil above the water. J. Flamang suggested that the Commission can permit cutting of some vegetation (not pulling the roots) to allow equipment in. J. Mooney stated that they can use a mini-excavator to minimize disturbance. They would also like to install coco mats or coir mats to stabilize the soil while waiting for the vegetation to be re-established.

The meeting was then adjourned.

Prepared by:  
Johanna Smith

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