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MEETING MINUTES
Belmont Conservation Commission
November 17, 2015 Meeting Minutes
Room 2 Town Hall
7:00 pm

2016 JAN -7 PM 2:32

Attendees:

Members: James Roth (Chairman); Margaret Velie, Charles Chiang, Christopher Morris;

Conservation Agent: Mary Trudeau

7:05 Review of Minutes of October 6, 2015 meeting

The Commission reviewed the minutes of the October 6, 2015 meeting.

Margaret Velie moved to accept the minutes of the October 6, 2015 meeting, Christopher Morris seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous to approve the minutes as written.

- 7:15 Mary Trudeau reported that the Belmont Hill School had made a generous donation of \$500 dollars towards the maintenance of Rock Meadow. Mary noted that the School is using Rock Meadow as a home course for the Cross Country running team. Christopher Morris suggested reviewing user fees for similar venues, such as Frankline Park in Boston.
- 7:25 Mary Trudeau noted that the Pine Allee Assessment appeared to be a professionally prepared document detailing best management practices to maintain and restore the Pine Allee. She noted that Jeff North has been actively involved in the Lone Tree Hill property and will be approaching the Commission to determine the appropriate level of review, or permitting, for the work included in the document.
- 7:30 Fred Paulsen reported that the Stormwater Committee is planning on submitting a grant application for Library rain gardens. He noted that BioEngineering Group had prepared conceptual plans for this work under a 604B grant last year, and that the Committee was interested in pursuing design and construction funds. The Commission noted that work is likely to be proposed within 25 feet of the Wellington Brook, and would be carefully reviewed by the Conservation Commission. Christopher Morris discussed several technical concerns, noting that vertical separation between seasonal high ground water and the bottom of the rain garden could be difficult to achieve. He also noted that an Operations and Maintenance Plan would be a requirement of any proposal, and that the plan should specify the person, or persons, responsible for the implementation of the Plan. Additional comments included a need for soil testing and consideration of flood plain issues and elevations.

Upon a motion made by Margaret Velie, and seconded by Chris Morris, the Commission voted unanimously to send a letter of support for the concept of a Library rain garden retrofit project.

8:00 Sheep Grazing at Rock Meadow: Joan Teebagy summarized her summer of 2015 grazing by noting that she grazed six (6) sheep for most of the summer at Rock Meadow without a significant dog conflict. She reported that the drought conditions during the summer limited the food supply in Rock Meadow, and that the sheep had been moved to Habitat for the last few weeks of the summer. Joan complimented the Belmont Board of Health, noting that they had worked with her to facilitate the pilot program, and that John Magurnis had been particularly supportive of her project.

8:30 Waterline Project Update: Mary Trudeau reported that the remaining funds in the CPA grant for this work have not been expended. She estimated that approximately \$2000 dollars remains unspent, but that it will be needed by either the Town (for the pressure valve and new water meter) or by the lateral line expansion in the gardens. Margaret Velie suggested requesting an extension from the CPA to determine the appropriate use of the remaining monies.

Christopher Morris moved, and Charles Chiang seconded the motion to request an extension of the time to expend the remaining funds from the CPA Committee. The motion was unanimously approved.

8:45 Dog Waste Station at Rock Meadow: The Commission discussed the issue of dog waste disposal at Rock Meadow. Mary Trudeau noted that this is a continuing source of aggravation as dog poop bags are frequently left in the parking area. She reported that there are commercial services available to pick up dog waste containers, and that the cost per year is approximately \$1000 dollars. She noted that a dog waste station, including bags and a trash container costs approximately \$400 dollars, and is a one time cost. She recommended a pilot program for the upcoming year to install a waste station and engage the a commercial disposal service to pick up the waste on a weekly basis.

Margaret Velie moved, and Christopher Morris seconded a motion to purchase a waste station and contract for a one year service contract to pick up and dispose of dog waste. The vote was unanimous to approve this pilot program.

9:00 Community Preservation Act projects:

The Commission discussed the two CPA projects submitted for the 2016 round of funding. The two projects were: creating a fund to allow for land purchases or restrictions, and the submission of a request to fund path improvements at Clay Pit Pond. Mary Trudeau and Margaret Velie drafted the preliminary applications for both projects, and submitted them to the CPA Committee. Both projects were approved for preparation of a final application. Mary Trudeau and Peg Velie agreed to coordinate the submittals.

Adjourn

Christopher Morris moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:15 pm; Charles Chiang seconded the motion, and the meeting was adjourned at 9:15 pm.

MEETING NOTICE
Belmont Conservation Commission
November 17, 2015
Room 2, Town Hall
7:00 pm
AGENDA

- 7:00 Call to Order
- 7:05 Approval of October 6, 2015 meeting minutes
- 7:10 Election of Officers
- 7:25 Belmont Hill School Race September 26 and October 24, 2015 update and recap
- 7:30 Pine Allee Tree Work
- 7:35 Rain Garden at Belmont Library: Fred Paulsen and Anne-Marie Lambert
- 7:45 Enforcement Action: 275 Somerset Street for removal of vegetation within wetland,
Riverfront and jurisdictional buffer zones.
- 7:50 Lone Tree Hill property updates
- Rock Meadow and Garden Updates
- Waterline CPA work update
- Dog Waste Station at Rock Meadow
- Joan Teebagy Sheep Grazing Project Update
- Uplands Activity and correspondence
- Discuss Community Preservation Act projects :
- Clay Pit Pond Intergenerational Walking Path update
- Open Space Land Inventory Update and Rankings Discussion
- Conservation Fund proposal
- Discuss potential projects for 2016 round of CPA funding.
- 8:15 Adjourn