

2017 MAY 24 AM 9:12

MEETING MINUTES

Belmont Conservation Commission

April 11, 2017 Meeting Minutes

Room 2 Town Hall

7:00 pm

Attendees:

Members: Jim Roth (Chairman); Margaret Velie; Kate Weinstein, Charles Chiang; Chris Morris; Dan Nolan (Associate)

Absent: Miriam Weil

Others: Mary Trudeau, Mandy Minicello; Peter Rosenmeier; Caitlin Duennebier; Brian Fitzgibbons

7:05 Review of Minutes of March 7, 2017 meeting

The Commission reviewed the minutes of the March 7, 2017 meeting.

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the vote was unanimous to approve the minutes written.

7:10 Bee Keeping Proposals for 2017

The Commission entertained Bee Keeping proposals from three teams of returning beekeepers. Mandy Minicello; Peter Rosenmeier; and Caitlin Duennebier/Brian Fitzgibbons applied to renew the permits issued to them for 2016. Mandy Minicello requested a renewal permit for two hives; Peter Rosenmeier requested renewal of his permit for two hives, with an option to split swarms to create four hives; and Caitlin Duennebeir and Brian Fitzgibbons requested renewal of the permit for two hives, with an option for two additional hives if necessary.

The Bee Keepers discussed the successes and failures of the hives over the past year, noting that 50% of the hives appeared to have survived this winter. The keepers noted a willingness to provide an educational discussion to gardeners, or other interested persons, during the summer of 2017. The Commission supported this endeavor.

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Commission voted unanimously to approve issuing Bee Keeping permits to Mandy Minicello; Peter Rosenmeier; Caitlin Duennebier and Brian Fitzgibbons .

7:35 Belmont Hill School Cross Country Running Proposal:

Mary Trudeau presented a proposal by the Belmont Hill School to use the Rock Meadow running paths for two (2) Cross Country running events during September of 2017. Chris Morris noted that he would prefer spacing the events such that one event occurred a month, rather than both events being held during the same month. Mary Trudeau agreed to discuss this with George Tahan, of Belmont Hill School, but noted that the schedule for multi school events is generally set by a committee representing all of the league schools. The Commission discussed the need to make the Meadow accessible to all users as frequently as possible.

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Commission voted to allow Belmont Hill School to use Rock Meadow for two Cross Country Events during the fall of 2017. The Commission requested Mary Trudeau contact Belmont Hill School and request that future scheduling be done with respect to the one event a month request.

8:00 Bluebird Nesting Project: Joe Finn:

Mary Trudeau reported that Joe Finn has requested permission to continue the bluebird nesting box project in Rock Meadow for the Summer of 2017. Noting that the project entails specific mowing patterns, designed to encourage bluebird feeding, Mary requested that the Commission renew their approval of the project. The proposal maintains the number of bird boxes on the property, and does not propose to expand the number this summer.

Based upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Commission voted to renew their approval and support of the bluebird nesting box program proposed by Joe Finn.

8:15 Discussion on Land Under Waterway Resource Area:

Mary Trudeau reported that she had received an email from Heidi Davis of the MassDEP describing the ability of the Commission to regulate streams running within culverts. She noted that other Commissions in the Commonwealth have considered the culvert to be a Land Under Waterway resource area, and have required permit applications for work within this jurisdictional area. Peg Velie noted that this could have implications for Belmont, and there are several streams currently enclosed by drain lines within the Town's storm water management system. The memorandum from Ms. Davis noted that there is no limitation to the length of the stream enclosed within the culvert.

8:30 178 Marsh Street: Discussion of Board of Survey Application

The Commission discussed the status of the Board of Survey application pending with the Belmont Board of Survey. The Commission noted that the plans submitted, to date, do not detail the erosion controls or sequence of construction details needed to determine whether or not the roadway can be built without adversely impacting the adjacent wetland resource areas. In particular, the proximity of the retaining wall to the ILSF resource area was of concern to the Commission.

The Commission also noted that the topographical information on the proposed site plans does not extend onto the Buttonheiser property. This omission makes the evaluation of

storm water flows difficult for the Commission. In particular, the sizing of the cross culverts beneath the roadway can not be confirmed without a better description of the characteristics of the contributing water shed. No information describing the flow characteristics of the cross culverts has been submitted.

The Commission noted that the details on the site plan were lacking sufficient information. In particular, the construction of the rip rap surfaces should be better described to allow the Commission to determine the potential impacts to resource areas. The Commission noted that the flow dissipater was not shown on the site plan.

The Commission also questioned the ability of the applicant to construct the emergency fire exit within the land area shown on the site plans. Concerns included the disruption of the watershed through the construction of this raised accessway.

The Commission continued to be concerned with the quality of storm water runoff discharged from the Detention Basin into the ILSF resource area. As this area functions as a vernal pool, water quality is very important.

The Commission discussed requesting an informal meeting with the Board of Survey to discuss the pending application. They also requested that Mary Trudeau begin to draft a formal letter to the Board of Survey, expressing the concerns of the Commission.

8:40 Clay Pit Pond Intergenerational Walking Path discussion:

Mary Trudeau noted that the BETA group is currently working on the preparation of bid documents and construction plans for the walking path.

Adjourn

Upon a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 pm; as well as a second to the motion, the meeting was adjourned at 8:45 pm.