

APPROVED

Belmont Conservation Commission September 12, 2006 Town Hall Conference Room
7:00 PM

Attendance: Commissioners David Webster, Carolyn Bishop, Peg Velie, Miriam Weil, Nancy Davis, Martha Moore, Joe Curro

Associates: David Cowell, Monica King, Darrell King, Faustino Lichauco

Conservation Agent: Mary Trudeau

Public: Deb Hartman, Chair of Rock Meadow Sub-Committee, Roger Wrubel of Mass Audubon Society (MAS)/Habitat, Friends of Western Greenway(FWG), Mike Tabaczynski of New England Mountain Bike Association and Greenway.

Meeting called to order by Chair Weil at 7:04 PM

Minutes of July 31, 2006 approved as received

109 Brookside/McVay: Request for Certificate of Compliance: M. Trudeau visited site and found work to be substantially in compliance with plans approved in Order of Conditions. The visit did reveal a difference in vegetation that was planted by applicant to mitigate for work in riparian zone. The Commission noted that the planting plan had not been approved by the Commission, and that it appeared in the file after the close of the public hearing. The Commission agreed that the applicant had substantially complied with the planting plan, but noted that it did not accurately reflect the Commission's request for 70 square feet of restoration within the riverfront area. The Commission noted that in the future, Orders of Conditions specify number and type of plantings. Standard should be at least a 1:1 replacement. Issuance of Certificate of Compliance was approved with one abstention.

Rock Meadow/Greenway proposal for trail work:

Roger Wrubel, Mike Tabaczynski, Deb Hartmann: Roger Wrubel stated that the Friends of Western Greenways Association was interested in applying for trail improvement grant available through DCR Recreational Trails Program. Commission is working with FWGA to increase scope of grant proposal. Roger Wrubel stated that the proposal would include plans to rebuild three bridges and boardwalk. One bridge crosses Beaverbrook connecting the Meadow with Met State lands; a second crossing is in wetland near Concord Avenue; and the third crossing is over a small stream within the Meadow. Bridge replacement at Met State would be about 49' long walk with railing to span wetland. Grant will request funds for materials with match through volunteer labor. Mike Tabaczynski noted that total length of 204' of structures would cost approximately \$3,330 (for pressure treated wood.) Commission questioned possibility of using Trex, and it was noted that it might increase cost five times. MAS Habitat has Trex platforms on pressure treated base.

ConCom urged inclusion of mapping, trail planning and maintenance in application. Other funds might be available for trail improvement, maintenance, trail hardening, kiosks etc. Commission agreed to provide letter of support for project and to aid in preparation of scope of proposal.

Greenway connector trail: Roger Wrubel proposed a trail, to be marked with Greenway Logo, across Rock Meadow to connect to Met State Land. He noted that FWG might then take some responsibility for maintenance of that trail and fund the project. Discussion on impact of

blazes/logos/trail markers. Commission agreed to concept of a trail, but noted that they would like to discuss location of trail. Commission noted that a site visit with Roger Wrubel would be required to field locate the trail

30 Howells Rd: hearing continued until October 3rd, 2006 meeting because applicant did not submit required information within necessary time frame.

Old Business:

Discussion of role of Conservation Agent: Ms. Trudeau noted that she considered herself a technical advisor to CC. She noted that the position required assisting the public with filings, and that she was seeking guidance in establishing standards for requiring Determinations versus Notices of Intent. She noted that she prefers to deal with chair or contact, in establishing work priorities. It was noted that she welcomes phone calls or requests from individual commissioners on small matters and that members should feel free to contact Mary with observed violations.

Filing Fee Fund: Ms Trudeau noted that Tom Younger has agreed to speak to Selectmen re. retroactive '05/'06 for filing fee fund . The fund is mandated by law, and will allow for the Commission to pay MACC dues, contract mowing at Rock Meadow and cover other small expenses.

Standard Draft Conditions in addition to DEP Conditions: The Commission noted that the drafted conditions provided for a pre construction meeting and means of establishing that erosion controls were in place, and that the contractors understood the Order would be enforced. etc. The Commission decided that the Conditions would be considered and approved or amended at next meeting.

Erosion control CD (Massachusetts Clean Water Toolkit) available for loan on erosion control techniques.

Rock Meadow Subcommittee: applying for grant from Fish and Wildlife with Eric Derleth for Partner's Grant. The Committee has subcontracted with Jeff Collins from Mass Audubon to report on. invasives and mowing management for \$2500. Completion of this plan will allow for submission of the grant request to Eric Derleth under the Wildlife Habitat Improvement Project (WHIP) grants from Dept of Agriculture for meadow restoration. \$500 Partners' grant received by Mass Audubon for Rock Meadow study and a \$500 gardeners' donation and RM Subcommittee money to be used as seed money for Partner's Grant.

Request Rock Meadow Subcommittee report to ConCom regularly since ConCom has legal jurisdiction over Rock Meadow.

Discussion of open meeting law, use of email, meeting protocol, executive sessions, taping of hearings (consult Mary), request for running list of outstanding Orders of Conditions, Commissioners to receive copy of Order of Conditions for project after hearing (electronic)

Projects outstanding: Rock Meadow Management Plan, Local wetlands by-law, Open Space Plan, Informational flyer for citizens about Wetlands Act and role of ConCom

Meeting adjourned at 9:45PM Next meeting October 3, 2006 at 7:00 PM location to be determined. Possible conflict with November 7th meeting and election day to discuss at next meeting.

Submitted by C. Bishop