

Belmont Conservation Commission Meeting April 7, 2009, Town Hall, Room 1 at 7:00 pm

Attendance:

David Webster, Jim Roth, Margaret Velie, Martha Moore, Nancy Davis, Miriam Weil, Mary Trudeau, Jeff North, Tino Lichauco, Barbara Gardner,

Minutes:

The minutes from the March 5 and March 16 meetings were approved. March 3 minutes have yet to be located.

Woodward Conservation Restriction Update: The Belmont Board of Selectmen voted not to accept the Conservation Restriction offered by the Woodward family for land on Ernst Road.

John Connor – Bee Keeping:

John Conner, beekeeper, is seeking a location at Rock Meadow to place one bee hive for his bees that will arrive in the next week or two. John must also review the request with the McLean Land Trust committee, if he chooses to site the hive on property under that committee's care and control. John will use the new RM map to identify a site that is away from paths and gardens and then communicate site to Mary Trudeau. David Webster made a motion to empower Mary and Jim to work on a pilot program with John and Matt Larria. Jim seconded. All approved the motion.

115 Oliver Road: continued Public Hearing Notice of Intent (106-91):

Theo Kinderman, accompanied by Ron Gardiner, his client presented the revised plan to the Commission. Mr Kinderman noted that the Gardiners were trying to close out the project from an expired Order of Conditions, and had filed the current Notice of Intent to remedy defects and changes in the site plan. Mr Kinderman noted that he and Mary Trudeau visited the site last month. He noted that the plan showed that roof leaders, now stuck in sod, were to be tied into a subterranean stone bank that may already exist on the site. He noted that if the crushed stone basin is not present; one will be installed. Mr Kinderman noted that the runoff from the west side of the house would be directed to a rain garden. This raingarden would alleviate the current discharge of roof runoff to the adjacent property.

Mr Kinderman also noted that the application included a proposal to straighten the fence and allow an 11-foot (currently above the fence line) area to re-vegetate naturally and

become a naturalized buffer zone. Arial photos were presented (www.historicaerials.com) that indicate the area has been maintained as a lawn for several decades (since at least 1971). Mary Trudeau and Jim Roth noted that they had visited the site this week, as had Nancy Davis and Martha Moore.

David Webster questioned the proposed capacity of infiltration basin versus runoff volume. Mary Trudeau noted that roof water flow into neighbor's property would not be allowed.

The Commission is looking for the plan to include:

- Basin designed with sufficient capacity to handle a 2 year 24 hour storm; incl 3 eastern downspouts from roof downspouts
- Rain garden or subsurface infiltration trench to handle 2 year 24 hour Type III storm from 2 southwesterly downspouts, and such that any overflow drains to 115 Oliver Road property
- To provide as-built designs and calculation of the infiltration measures, as well as fence and plantings.

The Commission discussed whether wildlife would be restricted by fence, and it was the consensus of those who had viewed the site that it would not act as a restriction to passage for most wildlife.

David Webster made a motion to issue an Order of Conditions subject to the 3 points above and also subject to the standard conditions of OOC. Jim Roth seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Water Department Filing Concord Avenue Notice of Intent filing 106 - 92 NOI:

Tim Corrigan, an engineer from Weston & Sampson represented the Town of Belmont in their filing of a Notice of Intent for the water main replacement that is being proposed within Concord Avenue. This work is being done in anticipation of the re-paving of Concord Street. Wetlands abut a portion of Concord Avenue, generally from Mill Street to Robinwood Road. Mr Corrigan noted that while all work will be conducted within the roadway, portions of the right of way are within the 100' buffer zone to Bordering Vegetated Wetlands, and within 200 feet of the Clematis Brook, a perennial waterway.

Mr Corrigan noted that the proposal included the use of hay bales and siltation fabric as erosion controls within jurisdictional areas. Mary Trudeau suggested that straw wattles might be a cost effective substitution. She also noted that the Commission would appreciate the contract being modified to fix a grading problem at corner of Robinwood Road that was left by the Culvert Replacement contractor. Mr Corrigan confirmed that the goal would be to backfill and patch each section of water line trench at end of every workday. Mr Corrigan also addressed Nancy Davis's concern with dust control and noted that dust will be controlled without calcium chloride. The Commission noted that

the contractor should expect to dewater, and that a dewatering plan would be requested at the preconstruction meeting with the contractor.

David Webster moved to approve the project with the following special conditions:

1. That the contractor had the option to replace erosion controls with straw wattles
2. That the contractor should use water spray for dust control
3. That the contractor would provide details for dewatering
4. That the Order require a pre-construction meeting
5. That the Order encourage the use of silt socks in the catchbasins

The motion was seconded by Jim Roth, and unanimously approved.

19 Robinwood Road – Notice of Intent filing for addition to existing dwelling and construction of an inground pool:

Russ Waldron, Aris Tziavas, and Avo Asdourian presented the Notice of Intent materials to the Conservation Commission. Mary Trudeau, Jim Roth, Nancy Davis and David Webster noted that they had inspected the site, and disagreed with the wetlands delineation. In particular, it was noted that the site had been historically altered and that wetlands vegetation could be seen within areas flagged by the applicant as upland. It was noted that ground water elevations in wetlands, and flagged uplands, appeared similar and that some of the flagged upland areas appeared to meet several of the criteria for consideration as Bordering Vegetated Wetlands. The Commission noted the following issues to be addressed: correction of the wetlands delineation; correction of the Bank delineation; the addition of dimensions to the site plan (house and pool); correction of the Bank setback dimension to reflect the flag closest to the proposed work; determination of the character of the paving at the pool edge; sizing of the rain garden with respect to a specific rainfall event; correction of the buffer zone and Riverfront Areas to reflect the delineation changes and correct the North arrow on the site plan.

The Commission would like to see full test pits in several locations, with special attention paid to those areas above the current wetlands flagging which appear unable to sustain lawn vegetation and which appear to support Jewel weed and Skunk Cabbage. Mary Trudeau noted that she would like to inspect the test pits after they are dug, and that Russ Waldron should contact her after his soils exploration has begun..

Mr. Waldron requested a continuation of the hearing until the May 5th meeting in order to dig test pits and assemble additional information and plan corrections.

Fireworks Discussion Warren Farrell:

Warren Farrell of the Belmont 150th Celebration Committee and Matt Shea of Atlas Pyrotechnics, in Jaffrey NH, presented a proposal to launch fireworks from a barge moored in Clay Pit Pond. Mr Farrell noted that the event was tentatively scheduled for

June 12, 2009, with a rain date of June 13, 2009. Mr Farrell noted that fireworks had not been done in Belmont since the Town's Celebration of its 125th. The 150th Celebration Committee is seeking Commission's approval to launch fireworks from a barge moored in Claypit Pond and is looking for guidance on how to proceed.

Martha Moore noted that she had represented the Commission at a meeting with the Committee concerning the fireworks proposal, and had advised Mr Farrell to appear before the Commission. She noted that the Commission's concern is for the condition of the banks of the pond and crowd control around the bank viewing fireworks. She expressed concern for people standing on the bank and noted that spectators could fall from trees.

Mr Farrell noted that the fireworks display 25 years ago was staged near the track. He stated that the new rubber surface of the track limits the viability of this site as an alternative staging location.

Jennifer Smith of Claflin Road spoke against the plan to launch from the Pond.

General discussion included the need for police supervision, and potentially snow fencing to keep spectators away from the bank of the pond. The Commission also noted that the barge could damage the bank of the pond, and that the Committee would be responsible for any repairs. Discussion also included the residue impacts from the chemicals used in the fireworks, as well as the need for a post display cleanup of any paper mache or shells that might end up within the pond or immediate environs.

Mr. Farrell was advised that the best course of action for the 150th Committees, especially given the amount of time until the celebration, would be to look for an alternative site from which to launch the fireworks. David Webster made a motion, seconded by Nancy Davis, to strongly encourage, in the interest of resource protection, the 150th Committee to seek an alternative location. The Commission noted that if the Committee desired to pursue the Clay Pit Pond option, the Commission would require a NOI or Request for Determination of Applicability under the regulatory process under the WPA.

The motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

Open Space Plan:

Miriam Weil noted that while the Town has an Open Space Plan in place, it is in need of updating if the Town is to become eligible for grants. Miriam asked that members split up sections and study relevancy. She noted that having the Plan in place will impact grant applications, and it is relevant to BCC mission. Miriam Weil and Nancy Davis agreed to come back next month with chapters that are relevant. Nancy Davis suggested reviewing several examples of other towns' open space plans.

Mitzvah Day at Rock Meadow:

May 17th is one of three Rock Meadow clean-up days, and members of Temple Beth El will perform service work on that day. Miriam Weil will attend, and would like a list of tasks to be completed. Nancy suggested a number of activities, like spreading chips, and clipping weeds between the Viburnums along the entranceway. Miriam Weil noted that she will be coordinating this event again this year.

Rock Meadow Mapping:

Debbie Hartman from Friends of Rock Meadow was present for the discussion of the new map. The Commission developed a list of tasks to be forwarded to MapWorks and requested that Mary Trudeau continue to work on this project. Debbie Hartman agreed to help with the text for the brochure.

The following list of concerns was developed:

1. Show some topography, perhaps USGS level of detail;
2. Show the connections to adjacent Open Space and public lands
3. Do not color code the trails
4. Do not name the trails
5. Create a legend for Trails, Meadows, Woods, bridges, boardwalk and kiosks
6. Improve map of gardens
7. Label the Town Line
8. Enlarge Beaver Brook
9. Review the designation of the Oaks in the West Meadow
10. Tree line does not appear to reflect the clearing done two years ago
11. Distances for trails and loop route

Multiple Gardens for Rock Meadow Gardeners Issue:

Mary Trudeau discussed the issue of multiple garden plots being assigned to a single gardener. The Commission discussed the issue and resolved that the most equitable plan that allowed for the greatest community involvement would be to allow one garden per household, and one garden per gardener. It was noted that this spring there appeared to be three gardens or gardeners that appeared to violate this policy, and that Mary Trudeau would need resolve these situations. It was noted that there were several similar instances in prior years that had been resolved in a similar manner.

David Webster made a motion, seconded by Tino Lichauco, to allow the assignment of only one garden per household and one garden per gardener and that each garden must be actively gardened by the renter. All approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:45 pm.

