

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

The Conservation Commission is the designated Town organization responsible for the stewardship of Rock Meadow, ponds, streams and wetlands in the Town of Belmont. A major effort to restore the meadow to Rock Meadow, took place this year under the auspices of the Conservation Commission with the dedication and assistance of Belmont Citizens such as Deborah Hartman and Matthew Keithley. A plan for continuation of meadow management and maintenance is under way.



A major effort to restore Rock Meadow took place this year. Before (left) and after (right) pictures of a path at Rock Meadow

The Conservation Commission is the agency in the Town of Belmont that is responsible for the administration of the Wetlands Protection Act.

The Conservation Commission began work on a Wetlands By-law in 2005. The purpose of the by-law is to maintain the quality of surface water, the quality and level of the ground water table and water recharge areas for existing or potential water supplies; to protect the public health and safety; to protect persons and property against the hazards of flood water inundation; and to provide for the reasonable protection and conservation of certain irreplaceable natural features, resources, and amenities for the benefit and welfare of the present and future inhabitants of the Town of Belmont. Work on the by-law continues into 2006.

In May of 2003, the commission was asked to hear and rule on a Notice of Intent filed by the owner of a parcel on Acorn Park Drive, at the eastern edge of the town, which abuts the Alewife Reservation. As high terrain that rises from the Alewife wetlands, the parcel has become known as the "Uplands." The proposed project was a large commercial development. After a very comprehensive and detailed hearing, input from the proponents, opponents and many interested individuals, the commission ruled that, based on the information presented, it would not approve the project. That decision was appealed. The commission eventually decided that it would be in the best interest of the town to end the appeal in 2005 to minimize expense to the town that would be incurred by pursuing the matter further. The developers later changed their project to a 40B residential development.

Other projects that came before the conservation commission include:

- Discussion of Proposed Library Project with the Library Trustees
- Victory Gardens Update with Bruce Westgate
- Rock Meadow – Proposal for clean-up
- Clay Pit Pond Restoration
- Boston School of Herbal Studies – Rock Meadow species
- Activities on the Belmont Uplands
- Tree Removal at 37 Larch Circle
- What is going on at the Transfer Station

The table below presents information on hearings held by the commission in 2005.

Public Hearings

Notice of Intent	68 Claflin Street
Notice of Intent	Somerset Street Sewer Installation
Request for Determination of Applicability	TEK Associates – Massachusetts Bay Commuter railroad 275 Somerset Street
Notice of Intent	33 Sandrick Road
Notice of Intent	39 Robin Wood Road
Notice of Intent	56 Robin Wood Road
Certificate of Compliance	83 Claflin Street
Notice of Intent	Town Owned Parcel - Woodfall Road

Notice of Intent	181 Winter Street
Notice of Intent	Belmont Country Club
Notice of Intent	76 Lorimer Road
Notice of Intent	243 Marsh Street
Notice of Intent	30 Howells Road
Notice of Intent	240 Somerset Street
Certificate of Compliance	647 Concord Avenue
Certificate of Compliance	404 Concord Avenue
Extension Order	155 Somerset Street

The Conservation Commission continues to be represented on the McLean Open Space land management committee. The Commission looks forward to a cooperative relationship with the LMC and the developer in 2006 and beyond.

The meetings of the Conservation Commission have been well attended and the commission benefits considerably from the participation of many well-informed and interested people. In particular, an honorable and grateful mention must be made of the service of four associate members. Their expertise and energy is a valuable part of the working of the commission. A minimum of one meeting a month is held. The notice of meeting and agenda are posted by the Town Clerk. Usually, the meetings are at 7:00pm on the first Tuesday of the month in the Faculty Room of the Chenery Middle School.

Respectfully submitted,
Miriam Weil, Chairman

Nancy Davis, Kathleen Baskin, Joseph Curro, Margaret Velie, Carolyn Bishop (Associate), Monica King, (Associate), Stewart Sanders (Associate), and Ruth Foster, (Associate), Christine MacVay (Associate), Martha Moore (Associate), Glenn Clancy (Management Liaison)