

DATE: November 7, 2023
TIME: 2:37 PM

MEETING MINUTES
Belmont Conservation Commission
September 19, 2023
Virtual Meeting
7:00 pm

Attendees:

Members: James Roth; Mark Smith; Prassede Vella; Dan Nolan; Margaret Velie; Christopher Morris; Miriam Weil

Others: Mary Trudeau, William Lovello, Joan Teebagy

Call to Order:

The Meeting was Called to Order at 7:05 pm by Jim Roth, Chairperson

Approval of Minutes:

Based on a motion duly made and seconded, the Commission

VOTED to approve the minutes of the June 22, 2023 meeting, as amended

Enforcement Action: 49 Brookside Avenue UPDATE

Mary Trudeau reported that she has had contact with the homeowners at 49 Brookside Avenue,,and that work has been ongoing to restore the impacted jurisdictional areas. The homeowners have completed much of the planting required, and substitutions have been made in the plant list to accommodate supply issues. The homeowners would like to schedule a site visit with the Commission to view progress made to date. Mary Trudeau agreed to arrange a site visit with the homeowners.

Clay Pit Pond: Intergenerational Walking Path Alternatives on High School Property

Bill Lovello, Chairperson of the Belmont School Building Committer for the Town of Belmont, discussed the necessary connections, at two separate locations, between the existing Intergenerational Walking Path and the new permeable paver fire road at the High School. He, also, noted that the Commission had met on site, and had expressed concern with conflicts between walkers and bikes, within the permeable pavement fire road.

The Commission noted that the path connections must consider handicap accessibility to adequately service the town residents, and that this issue is difficult at the path junction near Hittenger Street. Grading issues appear difficult to resolve without construction of stairs and remedial grading of the walking path. Mr. Lovello also noted that completion of the path will require funding, as he does not have a budget for the relocation of the path on the north side of the pond.

The Commission agreed that the School Building Committee should return to the Commission with more developed plans. The School Building Committee noted that they require a full Certificate of Compliance to complete paperwork to obtain the remaining funds for Town reimbursement. The Commission noted that they will need assurances that the work will be completed prior to issuance of a Certificate of Compliance.

Invasive Plant Species Control: Rock Meadow

Mary Trudeau reported that Essex Horticultural had completed a late summer treatment of Black Swallowwort and Bittersweet vines at Rock Meadow. An herbicide was applied, by hand spray, to stands of invasives found within the grasslands. This work was paid for with Community Preservation Grant funds appropriated in 2019.

Running Events at Rock Meadow:

Mary Trudeau reported that Belmont High School; Harvard Running Club; Belmont Hill School; and the Western Greenway Association have applied to use the Rock Meadow trails for x-country running events this fall season. The dates are: September 23; September 26; October 7; October 17; and October 24, 2023. She noted that there were no significant changes to the proposals, from past seasons, and that the events occurred both on weekdays and weekend dates.

Based on a motion duly made and seconded, the Commission

VOTED to approve the use of Rock Meadow for the specified running events.

Family Camping on September 8, 2023: Review

Mary Trudeau reported that the Family Campout at Rock Meadow occurred on September 8, 2023 and was a success. Approximately 35 families attended the event, and a good time was had by all. Games and activities, as well as pre made sandwiches, were provided for the campers. All trash was hauled off site by the Recreation Department, and the extra port o lets removed from the locus.

Sheep Grazing at Rock Meadow

Joan Teebagy made a few brief comments on the sheep grazing project at Rock Meadow, but deferred her annual report to the Commission to a later meeting.

Based on a motion duly made and seconded, the Commission

VOTED to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 pm