

2021 MAR 31 A 7 00

Letter to the Belmont Select Board

Dear Selectmen,

My name is Alexander Wong and I am writing to ask for the Select Board's approval of my Eagle Scout project. I have been a scout in Belmont's Troop 304 for four years and am currently working towards achieving scouting's highest rank, Eagle Scout. The most challenging requirement for this rank is the completion of a service project which I must plan, organize and lead, and that benefits a non-profit organization. For my Eagle project I have chosen to construct and install (with the help of other scouts) an informational kiosk on the grounds around Clay Pit Pond (see attached map and images).

The idea for this project was first suggested to me by Mary Trudeau, an agent for the Belmont Conservation Commission (BCC), when I first expressed interest in doing a conservation-related project. Ms. Trudeau has kindly agreed to advise me and assist with approval-related matters as I work on the project. The kiosk is one of multiple that appear in the BCC's master plan for the Clay Pit Pond Intergenerational Walking Path. I have consulted with both the BCC and the Historic District Commission (HDC) during their respective meetings and both groups have given valuable input and expressed their support for the project. The BCC, as the main beneficiary of my project, has agreed to take responsibility for the kiosk after installation.

Additionally, I have consulted with Christine Zale from the Office of Community Development. Ms. Zale has informed me that a building permit and sign permit are not required for this project. As a result, the HDC determined that a Certificate of Appropriateness will also not be necessary.

The kiosk itself will be about eight feet high and built from pressure-treated wood, while the hexagonal roof will have cedar shingles. On the kiosk's three sides, information about local ecology or history as well as maps of the surrounding area or public notices can be displayed for the public to view. I am hoping to receive grants from the Belmont Lions Club and Judith K. Record Conservation Fund to finance the project. While I do not consider myself responsible for providing the content to be displayed, my vision is that different town groups can contribute materials to make the kiosk a hub of information from which the entire community can benefit.

I am seeking the Select Board's administrative approval of this project, considering that the BCC and HDC have expressed support for it. I would be happy to present to the Select Board at a future meeting if required. I would appreciate the Board's formal approval of the project as soon as possible so that I can move forward with obtaining funding and materials. I sincerely hope that the Select Board will grant me permission to continue on this ambitious and exciting project. I thank the Board for their time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Alexander Wong

Kiosk in Conservation Commission's Plan

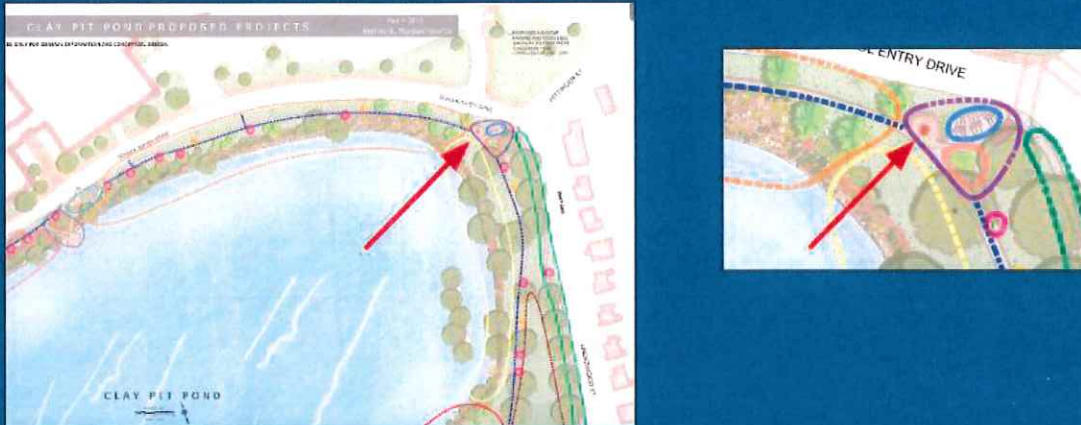


Fig. 1: Location of proposed kiosk (red hexagonal shape) in Belmont Conservation Commission's development plan for Clay Pit Pond

Kiosk Design: CAD Model

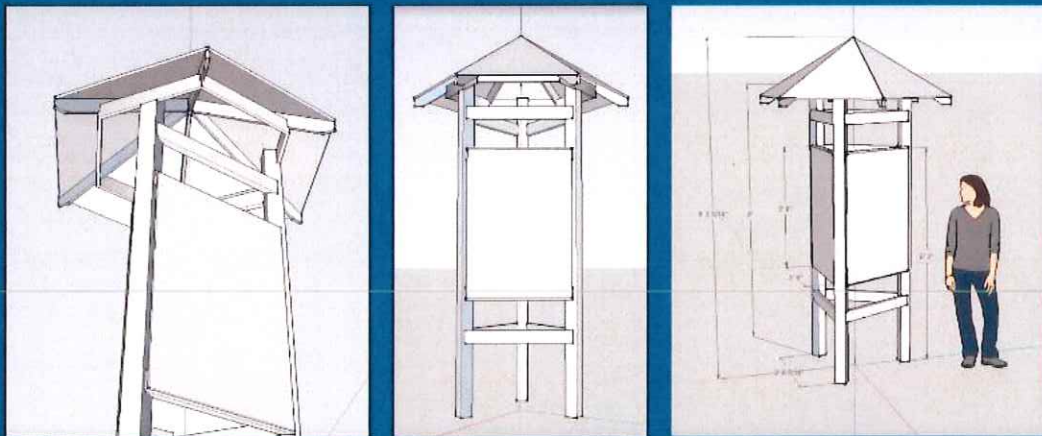


Fig. 2: Computer-aided design model of proposed informational kiosk, with a person for scale (not shown: a wooden frame and hinged lockable plexiglass cover over each of the three side boards to protect posted materials)



Fig. 3: $\frac{1}{4}$ -scale model of proposed informational kiosk, based on CAD model in Fig. 2 (black line on support posts shows location of ground level; actual kiosk posts will extend four feet below ground level)