# Belmont Stormwater Working Group

December 5, 2013, 7:00-9:00, Selectman’s Room, Belmont Town Hall

## Goal:

* Identify candidate sites for Stormwater Best Management Practices in Belmont

## Agenda:

* Welcome (Anne-Marie Lambert)
* Mystic Headwaters 604B Project Introduction (Patrick Herron)
* Brainstorming in 3 Sub groups (All)
	+ Geographic Focus
	+ Location, owner, benefits, challenges, next steps
* Wrap-Up (Fred Paulsen)
	+ List of candidate sites
	+ Action steps

## Next Meeting:

* Wednesday, January 29, 2014, 7:00-9:00, Location TBD
* Develop 2014 strategy for Belmont SWWG

# Welcome!

* Please sign in (find the clipboard)
* Contact information
	+ Anne-Marie Lambert ammlambert@gmail.com (Belmont Citizens Forum)
	+ Fred Paulsen fredpaulsen@gmail.com (Sustainable Belmont)
	+ Patrick Herron Patrick@mysticriver.org (MyRWA Water Quality Monitoring Director)
* Mystic Headwaters 604B Project description
	+ belmontcitizensforum.org (/Newsletters/SeptemberOctober2013)
* Belmont maps
	+ [www.town.belmont.ma.us](http://www.town.belmont.ma.us) (/GIS maps/Layers/MA FEMA or other layers)
	+ [www.belmontcitizensforum.org](http://www.belmontcitizensforum.org) (/Maps/FEMA or ACOE)
	+ [www.mysticriver.org](http://www.mysticriver.org) (/interactive watershed map)
* Belmont Stormwater Regulations (proposed)
	+ [www.belmont-ma.gov/Public\_Documents/BelmontMA\_CommDev/stormwaterbylaw/](http://www.belmont-ma.gov/Public_Documents/BelmontMA_CommDev/stormwaterbylaw/)
* Sample Best Management Practices (BMPs)
	+ rain gardens, porous pavement, tree plantings, green roofs
	+ [www.mysticriver.org](http://www.mysticriver.org) (/make a difference)
	+ [www.sustainablebelmont.net](http://www.sustainablebelmont.net) (/water & soil)

# Momentum Building for Less Flooding, Better Water Quality in Belmont!

* **Belmont Stormwater Regulations:** The state Attorney General recently approved the new stormwater bylaw passed by Town Meeting earlier this year. Proposed regulations are under review by ConCom, Sustainable Belmont, TMM’s, prior to approval by the Board of Selectmen.
* **Belmont Stormwater Working Group**: Belmont Citizens Forum, Sustainable Belmont and MyRWA are working together to form this group with the goal of improving water quality and reducing flooding in our waterways.
* **Mystic Headwaters 604B Project:** in September, Mass. Department of Environmental Protection awarded the Towns of Belmont and Arlington a $39,580 grant to do water quality monitoring and "Best Management Practice" designs in the two towns  Belmont's Clancy and Castanino are participating.
* **Belmont High School Rain Garden Proposal:** Belmont Citizens Forum and Sustainable Belmont have worked with the Schools Buildings and Grounds as well as experts at MyRWA and Bioengineering Group to develop a proposal to install rain gardens between the main parking lot and Clay Pit Pond.  While the project was recently rejected as unallowable for Community Preservation Act funding, we continue to pursue other town and private funding sources to demonstrate what is possible if we make water quality a priority in our town.
* **Belmont Uplands:** While the court battles appear to be over for now, citizen concern about flooding remains high, as does interest in finding a way to preserve the Silver Maple Forest, whether through acquisition, careful monitoring of permitting conditions, or persuasion of the land owner that preservation is the best option
* **Belmont Light Department Substation:** our Conservation Commission continues to monitor and ensure that all projects comply with Wetlands Protection Act requirements, including this proposed installation next to Blair Pond, which incorporates a sedimentation forebay and rain gardens and swales for stormwater management. It’s the Wetlands Protection Act in action.
* **Alewife Brook Constructed Wetlands:** in October, DCR hosted the Grand Opening of this beautiful new park and constructed wetlands by the bike path between Brighton Street and the Alewife T station.  Even before the remaining separated stormwater in Cambridge enters the facility, it is a great site for educating the public about stormwater management.  Bring yourselves and your guests on a stroll down to see this attempt to recreate the benefits of the Great Swamp.
* **Cambridge Vulnerability Study:** our neighbor city is in the midst of a climate change vulnerability study. Due out in June 2015, many of the findings will no doubt apply to Belmont.
* **TriCommunity Flooding Group:** in November, the state legislature officially re-authorized this working group, which focuses on flooding in the watershed encompassing Arlington, Belmont, and Cambridge.
* **Massachusetts Rivers Alliance:** this organization has chosen stormwater management as one of its priority issues because stormwater is the largest source of water pollution in Massachusetts.
* **Army Corps of Engineers:** ACOE updates local Hurricane Inundation maps regularly to help first responders plan evacuation and other strategies to help affected areas.
* **More Stories:** Search the Newsletter tab on [belmontcitizensforum.org](http://belmontcitizensforum.org) for articles about these projects and more. Search [sustainablebelmont.net](http://www.sustainablebelmont.net) or the general press to see evidence of citizen concerns about climate change and adaptation in the Northeast, e.g. about predicted increases in sea level, precipitation, and frequency of severe weather events.

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