

NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
January 7, 2016 7:30 PM
Kingsbury Room, Wellesley Police Station

Approved 1/21/2016

Attending: Stephen Murphy, Chair; Lise Olney, Vice Chair; Raina McManus, Secretary;
Joan Gaughan; Heidi Gross; Brandon Schmitt, Director; Mike Hlyuchij, Advisory Committee

Hunnewell Track and Field Public Hearing

The hearing to discuss the track and field's change-in-use continued, with an in-depth discussion about specific design considerations, including the infill, subsurface drainage system, scoreboard, sound system and traffic and other impacts on the neighbors. The NRC agreed to discuss the neighborhood impact of for-profit organization use of the park at a later date. **After a motion was made and seconded, the board voted 5-0 in favor of approving the change in use from a grass to a synthetic surface.**

Public Voice

No one spoke at public voice

Commissioners Report

State Street Trail: Ms. Gaughan explained that she had spoken with a civil engineer who thought the best solution for the trail at the State street parking lot might be a narrow segmented guard rail-type fence along the curb. Mr. Schmitt explained that he would check again with the Fuller Brook Park Committee about any possibility that the fence could be included in the restoration project, as was considered at one point. If this was not feasible under the project, the NRC could pursue it through their capital improvements.

Special Town Meeting: The board discussed the upcoming Special Town Meeting and unanswered questions about the proposed changes in the budget process, including:

- What would notification of changes to a departmental request look like?
- What is the role of advisory in the new model?
- What is the timeline for Advisory to review individual and the comprehensive budgets?

New Business/Continuing Business/Liaison Reports

- Bag Ban Regulation: Ms. McManus reported that the Board of Health has endorsed the proposed plastic bag regulations and would be the enforcing agency.
- Unified Plan: Mr. Schmitt will schedule time with members of the Planning board to discuss the Unified plan at a future NRC meeting.
- Sunlife Conservation Restriction: Mr. Schmitt described an ongoing effort to close out required paperwork for the Sunlife Conservation restriction located at Dearborn and McLean Sts. Mr. Schmitt will arrange a site visit with the NRC members to complete the required Municipal certification as the State reviews the CR.
- Drones in parklands: The board discussed the prohibition of drones in the park, and agreed that this should be added to the park policies as they are amended.

9:40 pm Director's Report

- Hazard Tree Removals – Mr. Schmitt notified the board of 2 tree removals at S. Woodside Ave and Clock Tower Park, which were identified as hazardous trees by the Deputy Tree Warden. Mr. Schmitt also notified the board that the resident at 159 Benvenue may need to meet with them to resolve an illegally

removed tree at her property. The board agreed that they would like the resident to attend a future NRC meeting to discuss the removal.

- Contract Updates – Mr. Schmitt reported that the Integrated Pest Management Plan and Policy update were underway and that he had met with the consultant Chip Osborne to take soil samples at Hunnewell, Sprague and Kelly Field to establish a baseline from the previous IPM analysis. Mr. Schmitt also reported that the 2015 Morses Pond Annual report was now available online on the NRC website and that new pumps for the P-inactivation unit had arrived. Mr. Schmitt informed the board that the Morses Pond Erosion study report was still being finalized and that the board should expect some clear recommendations hopefully by the end of the month. Finally, Mr. Schmitt explained that Ken Wagner had been out mapping for the Comprehensive Pond Mgt. Plan, and that preliminary results would be forthcoming.
Comprehensive Pond Mgt.
- Morton Park Benches: **After a motion was made and seconded, the board officially approved of the change to the bench location at Morton Park, as requested by Cricket Vlass at the DPW.**
- Budget proposal: **After a motion was made and seconded, the board voted 5-0 to remove their FY17 budget request of 35,000 for Morses Pond Improvements as the Finance department had approved allowing 40,000 from carry over funds to be carried over an additional year.**
- Zoning Amendments: Mr. Schmitt explained that the Warrant placeholder for the rezoning of NRC land into the Conservation district had been submitted. He had also met with Planning staff and will be presenting, along with Planning staff, planning board chair, and NRC chair, those proposed articles to Advisory on January 13th.
- Tax Title Properties: MR. Schmitt explained that during the rezoning process he learned about several tax title properties that may be appropriate to incorporate into park or Conservation land. Several of the properties abut existing NRC properties.
- Staffing update: Approximately 5 applications have been submitted for the Wetlands secretary position.
- Fuller Brook Liaison: The board discussed the Fuller Brook Park Committee liaison position and agreed that Ms. McManus would attend in Ms. Gross' place until she was able to return. This change would be discussed at the next FBP meeting on 1/13/2016.

Other items not reasonably anticipated prior to posting

The board agreed to send a letter to the Wellesley Zoning Board of Appeals and Needham ZBA outlining concerns about the construction of a short course at the Wellesley Country Club.

Review/Approve NRC December 15, 2015 Meeting Minutes

The board did not review the minutes

Review Schedule

The board cancelled the proposed 1/14 meeting but confirmed 1/21 and scheduled meetings for 2/11 and 2/25 all to take place at 7:30PM at Town Hall

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 10:40PM

Respectfully Submitted,

Brandon Schmitt

Brandon Schmitt, Director