



NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION MEETING AGENDA

January 16th, 2020, 7:00 PM

Kingsbury Room, Wellesley Police Station

Approved 2-27-2020

Present: Katie Griffith, Chair; Raina McManus, Vice Chair; Regina LaRocque; Laura Robert; Nancy Braun; Brandon Schmitt, Director

Guests: Gene Bollinger, Weston and Sampson; Matt Chin, Recreation Director; Jon Bonsall, Bill Simmons, Scott Keith, Joel Feist, Algonquin; Nancy Stakun; Wayne Everett; Sandy Siefert; Marc Sheckman;

Public Speak

No one spoke on a non-agenda item.

New and Continuing Business/Liaison Reports

▪ **Morses Pond Beach Feasibility Study Presentation**

Mr. Bollinger and Mr. Chin delivered a status update for the Morses Pond Feasibility study, which included field reconnaissance, mapping and community meetings involving stakeholders. The current plan is to construct simple amenities and consider off-season use of the park. Designs included a new bathhouse and office space, as well as a shared driveway, and connections between on and off-season uses. Ms. Griffith asked to clarify about the parking, which would shift the lot to the east and require clearing. The group also discussed adding solar panels over the parking lot and solar heating for water on the buildings. Ms. LaRocque suggested studying the need for additional parking. Mr. Chin explained that parking data could be collected over the next couple years as the design and permitting phase move forward. The board inquired about parking alterations and whether this would trigger zoning and adequacy requirements.

Ms. LaRocque inquired about sewer, and was informed the utilities travel up the access road and then connect across the beach to an ejector station. Ms. Robert inquired about the location of the playground and other amenities in relation to the Ice House pond. The group also discussed considering a more natural play structure. Ms. Robert asked about what additional lighting is planned. Mr. Chin explained that most likely the design would involve cameras and motion detectors which would require additional lighting. .

The board suggested adding designated bicycle parking, and commented that providing good sightlines for the beach, water, and playground areas would help ensure safety. Mr. Bollinger indicated that there was not currently a cost estimate for the project, and the Recreation Commission is planning to develop construction documents in FY24. The board discussed the conflict between pedestrian traffic and construction and delivery vehicles using the shared road. Finally, the board suggested scaling back the boardwalk.

• **Algonquin Gas Survey Results and Permit Request**

The board received a report from representatives from Algonquin Gas. Mr. Bonsall explained the intent, rationale and method of construction for the installation of a *Pig* device. The discussion will be continued to the next NRC meeting.

- **Playing Fields Lighting Discussion**

The board discussed the ongoing proposal to address lighting issues at Hunnewell field. Ms. Griffith outlined a schedule provided by the athletics department for practices, which is dictated by the daylight. Around 3 weeks of High School practices from early November through Thanksgiving would need lighting until 6:30PM.

Ms. McManus reported that the state Community Preservation Act (CPA) representative confirmed that CPA funds are an allowable use for new field lights and can also be used to upgrade existing lights. Funds would also be available to hire a consultant, which Ms. McManus suggested. After discussion, the board authorized Mr. Schmitt to submit a short form request to the CPC for consulting services.

The board discussed the possibility of procuring a water buggy for the Town.

Nancy Stakun addressed the board with concerns about negative impacts to the neighborhood, environment, climate safety convenience, maintenance, and public health and safety concerns. Mr. Everett inquired whether funds were being sought to install lighting. It was decided that consulting funds would be sought to lead design, and to provide public information sessions

- **Climate Emergency Education**

Ms. LaRocque reported that the city of Boston declared a climate health emergency. She also noted that the NOAA issued state climate summaries, which outlined an average temp. increase of 3 degrees for Massachusetts over the past century.

Ms. LaRocque attended a recent Board of Health meeting where they discussed passing their own declaration of climate emergency, and is interested in coordinating a monthly column in the Townsman for the Wellesley Will program. The board also discussed the Board of Selectmen's consideration of a resolution at Town Meeting.

Outreach/Education: Ms. LaRocque spoke with the director of professional education who has passed along the curriculum guide to all of the science teachers in the district, and has been working to promote the city nature challenge. Mr. Schmitt reported that Lisa attended the Wellesley Friends circle to present a program about the nocturnal life of Wellesley wildlife. .

Tree Planting/Preservation: This item was not discussed.

Liaison Reports

Grow Green Wellesley: This item was not discussed.

3R Working Group: Ms. Braun reported a meeting scheduled for Friday January 24th.

Trails Committee: Ms. Robert reported that the Trails Committee moved the trails walk so as not to interfere with the City Nature Challenge.

Current Town Projects: Mr. Schmitt provided updates on the Duck Pond Bridge project and the development on Williams Street.

Director's Report

Campaign Finance report: Board members signed the required form.

Annual Town Meeting Warrant Articles: Mr. Schmitt provided an update on the existing NRC motions regarding the naming of the Diane P. Warren field and the re-appropriation of funds towards the girls' softball field project.

Citizen Petition: Mr. Schmitt outlined the fur-free Wellesley petition.

CPC requests: The board discussed the Perrin Park Basketball court, Warren Park Sensory Playground Equipment, Wight Pond and the Recreation Commission's Bee hive CPC requests.

Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) Program: The MVP planning process is nearing completion.

NRC contract/Project Updates: The annual Morses Pond report is now posted on the NRC website.

Permits, if any – no permits were requested

Approve Minutes/Schedule future meetings

After a motion was made and seconded, the board voted unanimously to approve the minutes of January 2, 2019

Urgent items not anticipated prior to 48 hours of meeting or Previous items in Progress – no items were discussed

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:35PM

Materials Referenced or Discussed:

- Morses Pond Beach Area & Bathhouse presentation
- Bathhouse proposal feedback email
- Fur-free Wellesley petition
- Draft January 2, 2020 minutes
- Algonquin Site Plans

Respectfully submitted,

Brandon Schmitt

Brandon Schmitt, Director