

TOWN OF WELLESLEY



MASSACHUSETTS

NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION  
MEETING MINUTES

**January 19, 2023 7 PM**

**Approved 2/2/2023**

Great Hall, Wellesley Town Hall  
525 Washington Street, Wellesley MA 02482

**Present:** Jay McHale, Chair; Bea Bezmalinovic, Vice-Chair (remote); Lisa Collins, Secretary; Laura Robert; Michael D'Ortenzio; Brandon Schmitt, NRC Director

**Welcome and Meeting Guidelines**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00PM. Mr. McHale announced the meeting was being recorded and broadcast via Wellesley Media.

**Public Speak (non-agenda item):** There was no public comment

**Director's Report**

**15 Waterway Access Agreement Update:** Mr. Schmitt reviewed the final access agreement developed with Town Counsel and the developer at 15 Waterway. Key elements of the agreement included a bond to ensure the site is restored, insurance requirements, and prior notification from the developer of work phasing and any changes.

**Town Meeting Business:** Budget and Article 39, Wetlands Bylaw: Mr. Schmitt reviewed the proposed Wetlands Bylaw changes to specify fines associated with violations and identify the party responsible for issuing fines. The Town budget exceeds the Select Board guidelines, and there may be future requests to amend the NRC budget.

**Liaison Reports**

**Wetlands:** Ms. Robert shared an update on the Wetlands Retreat which took place on Jan. 12. The WPC discussed Climate Mitigation and Climate Resilience at the retreat.

**Trails:** Ms. Robert reported that the Trails Committee finalized the Spring Walks which they will release soon. The Trails members were made aware of the NRC policy review and requested a copy for comment. Ms. Robert also said Steve Park, Trails Board member, may attend the next NRC meeting to talk about the drainage problems at Centennial Park.

**Playing Fields:** Mr. Schmitt updated everyone on the Field Utilization Study and the continued work with Weston and Sampson. They will discuss the data and review with a small group and present at the next PFTF in February. Mr. McHale announced that Ms. Bezmalinovic has been remote during the meeting. She then shared updated information on the DPW moving forward on the bathroom and concession stand. There was discussion on the lighting. PFTF also talked about getting major event permits several months in advance to allow time to alert the neighbors and local business in the area.

**CPC:** Mr. McHale shared that the NRC will get additional funding for the Morses Pond Erosion project if needed. CPC funded the bathroom at Sprague and will have an abutters meeting to review the plan – the meeting is tentatively Feb. 2 at 5:30 p.m.

**Climate Emergency**

Mr. McHale spoke briefly about the severe weather in California.

**New and Continuing Business**

**Policy Review: Section 1:** The board reviewed and discussed revisions to Section 1 of the NRC Handbook including grammatical and universal languages, and the following topics:

- Confirmation and Evaluation of sub-committees
- Representation of Board positions by Individual members
- Board and Departmental Communications

Suggested revisions will be collated and provided for review and possible adoption at the next meeting.

#### **Approve Minutes**

*After a motion was made and seconded, the board was polled and voted 4-0 to approve the December 15 minutes as amended. Bezmalinovic-Yea, Robert-Yea, Collins-Yea, D'Ortenzio-Yea*

#### **Urgent Items Not Anticipated Prior to 48-hours of Posting**

N/A

#### **Schedule meetings**

The board discussed future meetings considering conflicts in February and March.

#### **Adjourn**

*After a motion was made and seconded, the board was polled and voted 4-0 to adjourn the meeting at 9:07 PM. McHale-Yea, Bezmalinovic-Yea, Robert-Yea, Collins-Yea, D'Ortenzio-Yea*

#### **Materials Referenced**

15 Waterway Access Agreement  
Approach to Policy Review  
Draft Policy Revisions Section 1  
Draft Minutes (January 5, 2022)

Respectfully Submitted,

Lisa Collins, Secretary