



NATURAL RESOURCES  
COMMISSION REMOTE ONLINE  
MEETING AGENDA  
January 21, 2021, 7 PM

Approved 2-18-2021

**Present:** Raina McManus, Chair; Laura Robert, Vice Chair; Katie Griffith; Jay McHale; Allison Burson; Brandon Schmitt, Director

**Guests:** Lise Olney, Select Board Liaison.

**Members of the Public:** Jim Miller; Martha Collins; Laurance Stuntz; Cliff Canaday; Christian Brennan; Wayne Everett; Jerry Nigro, Nancy Stakun

**Public Speak:** Nobody was present for public speak.

**Tree Hearing:**

*After discussion, a motion was made and seconded, and the board voted 5-0 in favor of the removal of the following trees:*

46 Wellesley Ave	15" Red Maple	25 Brook St	15" Norway Maple
85 River St	20" Pine	11R Maugus Ave	22" Bradford Pear
70 Elmwood Rd	38" Oak	440 Washington St	27" Red Maple & 2 Cedars (20" and 23")
275 Walnut St	42" White Oak	30 Paine St	24" Norway Maple
Babson (Forest & Wellesley Ave)	28" Ash	3 Ottaway Cir	8" Bradford Pear
20 Morton St	36" White Ash	34 Abbott Rd	30" Sugar Maple
2 Clark Rd	44" Red Oak	41 Oakland St	17" Elm

*After a motion was made and seconded, the board voted 5-0 to retain the following trees:*

46 Wellesley Ave	15" Red Maple	440 Washington St	2 Cedars: 20" & 23"
70 Elmwood Rd	38" Oak	275 Walnut St	42" White Oak

**Action/Discussion Items:**

- **Hunnewell Fields Lighting Discussion:** An overview of the project, including history and steps taken to date, was presented. School Committee comments regarding priorities for the Track and Field were read and discussed. Members of the public spoke stating both desires for lighting the track and field, as well as concerns about adding more lighting to the neighborhood. The need to address the existing field lighting was discussed. The NRC Policy with criteria for evaluating changes to resources under NRC jurisdiction was reviewed. The idea of exploring a temporary lighting solution was discussed. The Board expressed the desire to meet with the School Committee to learn the Schools' needs for the Hunnewell Track and Field.
- **Climate Emergency:** See next item: Trails Support Letter.

- **Trails Support Letter: Completion of Route 16 walkway to Elm Bank:** Mr. Schmitt explained that the town is eligible for \$675,000 in grants from a transportation bond bill for sidewalk creation and restoration. The Trails Committee is seeking to create a sidewalk along Route 16 to connect the end of the Sudbury Aqueduct with Elm Bank in Natick to make for safer walking. This connection will be .5 miles long. The board agreed to bring their support to the Select Board
- **Open Space and Recreation Plan (OSRP):** A consultant has been chosen, and their main responsibilities and next steps were discussed.
- **Town Forest Algonquin Trespass:** The Town was notified the Natural Gas Entities Algonquin would be clearing and mowing their easements over their underground line. During the operation, one of the mowers left the easement and trespassed into conservation land damaging some vegetation. Mr. Schmitt shared the NRC's response of notifying the utility's attorney and request enforcement to their easement. Possible consequences, including filing a police report, and next steps regarding how to protect conservation land from trespass in the future, were discussed.

**Liaison Reports:**

**Wetlands Protection Committee (WPC):** Mr. McHale has made arrangements with the Wetlands Administrator to attend meetings as the NRC liaison to Wetlands.

**Director's Report:**

Mr. Schmitt reported on working with Julie Meyer (Wetlands Administrator) in regard to common interests shared between the NRC and WPC.

The DPW contract for site prep work for the Aqueduct bathroom at the Hunnewell Fields will be put out to bid on January 28<sup>th</sup>.

The WHS Sailing team has expressed an interest in using Morses Pond for practices and Wednesday regattas; Mr. Schmitt will bring the permit request to the next NRC meeting.

A community member has expressed interest in putting bird boxes at Centennial Park; he was invited to the next meeting.

Proposed Perrin Park improvements will be further discussed at an upcoming NRC meeting.

**Approve Minutes:**

*After a motion was made and seconded, the board approved the meeting minutes for 1/7/2021, as edited, with a 4-0 vote (Ms. Burson was absent from the vote).*

**Schedule Future Meetings:** N/A

**Urgent Items Not Anticipated Prior to 48-hours of Posting:** N/A

**Adjourn:**

The meeting adjourned at 9:55 PM.

*Respectfully submitted,  
Leah Wallner, NRC Clerk*