

TOWN OF WELLESLEY



MASSACHUSETTS

NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES

February 2, 2023, 7 PM

Warren Building Room 008
90 Washington Street

Approved 2-21-2023

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

Guests: Steve Park, Trails Committee

The meeting was called to order by Mr. McHale at 7:10 PM

Public Speak (non-agenda item)

There was no public comment.

Centennial Park Trails Committee Proposal

Mr. Park discussed a trail renovation project of the 'S' trail in the upper meadow at Centennial to remedy erosion, drainage, muddiness and trail widening on this popular scenic meadow trail. After a motion was made and seconded, the board voted unanimously to approve the project.

Director's Report

Town Meeting Report: Mr. Schmitt presented the NRC report for the back of the Advisory book and asked that members provide feedback before the report is submitted to the Advisory Committee.

Morses Pond Report/Dredging: Mr. Schmitt reported on continued progress with the Large Harvester. Mr. Schmitt also reported that he had met with Ken Wagner and DPW staff to discuss proposed dredging of Reeds and Duck ponds. The DPW has provided a wealth of historical documents, including old dredging design plans, which would save time and funds with permitting. Additional expenses will depend on the volume and chemical characteristics of the sediment to be removed.

Replacement scoreboard: Reidy Field: Mr. Schmitt outlined a request from Wellesley Youth Baseball and Softball to replace the existing, and no longer functional, scoreboard in the outfield of Reidy Field. The sign will fit in the existing location, and be purchased by Wellesley Youth Baseball and Softball. The board was supportive but deferred formal approval to the next meeting to allow for public feedback.

Liaison Reports

Playing Field Task Force: Ms. Bezmalinovic reported that PFTF will next meet on Feb. 17.

Trails: Ms. Robert referred to Mr. Park's presentation at the start of the meeting.

Wetlands: Ms. Robert said there is no new information. The next meeting is February 9.

Mobility: Ms. Collins reported the next meeting is on February 23.

Wellesley Conservation Land Trust: Mr. D’Ortenzio was introduced to the WCLT by Mr. Schmitt. Mr. D’Ortenzio will be the liaison and has plans to become a member.
CPC: Mr. McHale reported CPC will meet in two weeks. There was an approval to go to Town Meeting for the increase for Morse’s Pond and Sprague bathroom.

Climate Emergency

Ms. Collins reported on a [New York Times Article](#) which discussed the impacts of global trade on Climate change.

Approve Minutes

After a motion was made and seconded, the board voted unanimously to approve the January 19, 2023 minutes as amended.

New and Continuing Business

Discuss NRC parkways: This item was deferred for a future meeting.

[Approve Revisions to Handbook section 1.](#) The board discussed revisions from the previous meeting and finalized changes to Section 1.

[Handbook Review: Section 2:](#) The board reviewed proposed changes to Section 2 of the handbook, including: Land disposition process as it relates to new legislation, and the criteria for evaluating land use change. The board also discussed interest in proceeding with long-term Open Space planning.

Urgent Items Not Anticipated Prior to 48-hours of Posting.

N/A

Schedule meetings

N/A

Adjourn

After a motion was made and seconded, the board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 9:25

Materials Referenced

- Centennial Reservation Proposal from the Trails Committee
- Draft report for the back of the Advisory report
- Reidy Field Scoreboard replacement proposal
- Policy Review Section 1
- Draft Policy Review Section 2
- Draft 1-19-2023 Minutes

Respectfully Submitted,

Lisa Collins, Secretary