

TOWN OF WELLESLEY



MASSACHUSETTS

**NATURAL
RESOURCES
COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES**

February 3, 2022, 6:30PM

Approved 2-17-2022

Present: Raina McManus, Chair; Laura Robert, Vice Chair; Jay McHale; Allison Burson; Bea Bezmalinovic, secretary; Brandon Schmitt, Director

Public Speak: Nobody was present for public speak.

Guest: Alberto Ferrer, Advisory Liaison; Doug Smith; Alissa Fine; Martha Collins; Leslie Laud; Allastair Ironside; Judy Barr; Christie Kovacs; Nancy Stakun; Jo Okun; Jared Crawford; Dina Schleger; Marc Shechtman

Acton/Discussion Item

Tree Hearing

Mr. Schmitt presented information on the list of trees proposed for removal. Removal notices were posted in the Feb. 27 & Feb. 3 Wellesley Townsman and physically on the trees. The NRC received written objections to the removal of the trees at Dover Road. Given written objections, the NRC is precluded by law from voting on this petition. Residents addressed the board with concerns about the tree at 9 Franklin, and support for removal of the trees there and at 9 Midland.

After a motion was made and seconded, the board voted unanimously by roll call vote to approve removal of the trees at:

2 Mayo Rd./Weston Rd. 33" White Pine

94 Mayo Rd. 37" Red Maple

8 Midland Rd. 29" Sugar Maple

8 Middlesex Rd. 38" Ash Tree

20 South Woodside Ave. 14" Cherry

14 Longmeadow 30" Sugar Maple

45 Howe St. 18" Norway Maple

9 Franklin Rd. 36" Eastern White Pine: Conditioned with leaving a large stump.

Hunnewell Track & Field Projects Discussion

The board continued discussion of the School Committee proposal regarding team room, restroom and lighting proposal at the Hunnewell Track and Field.

Residents addressed the board with concerns about the following issues:

- Lack of clear parking plan, wetlands concerns, a “slippery-slope” and burden on the neighbors.
- Impact on local wildlife, including specific bird and reptile species witnessed in the area by one of the callers, traffic, trash, congestion, parking and noise in the neighborhood.
- Consideration of a neighborhood counter-proposal with fewer evenings

The Commissioners then discussed various issues including:

- Concern that adding lights will negatively affect the investment that the Town has made in the Fuller Brook area.
- Question about whether the wetlands commission could comment on the proposal before the NRC and the timing of review by Wetlands
- Question about what process the NRC will use to advance the discussion of School Committee’s proposal
- Question about how to balance demands from different user groups
- Concern about the potential for a slippery slope regarding number of games allowed going forward if the composition of the board changes

The conversation will be continued at a future meeting.

Alcohol Licensing on parkland

The board discussed the potential change in bylaws to allow alcohol licensing on land under the jurisdiction of the NRC. The Board discussed whether to be included in the upcoming bylaw revisions to be presented to Town Meeting in April 2022, the board discussed the benefit of observing how the Town’s licensing proceeded within the Right of Way before initiating changes on parkland.

After a motion was made, the board voted 1-4 in favor of adding NRC parkland to the bylaw revisions. motion failed with McHale voting in favor and the rest of the NRC members in opposition.

Climate Emergency: Ms. McManus reported that several state-level bills advanced – including the Act Establishing the Municipal Reforestation Bill (S.504), Act to Restrict Use of Pesticides around Children (S. 432) and an Act to Establish an Ecologically-based Mosquito Management Policy. (H.937).

Allison Burson left the meeting at 9:20 PM

Directors Report

Field Utilization / Optimization Project: Brandon Schmitt reported that the NRC received one proposal in response to the Field Utilization RFP. Representatives from Recreation, Schools, DPW, and the Playing Fields Task force submitted questions and attended an interview with the responsive firm. The team members are checking references and gathering additional information. The NRC hopes to move forward with a project funding request to the CPC. Raina McManus suggested Bea and Jay to attend the CPC meeting next week to answer questions about the project.

Lawn Conversion Project: Mr. Schmitt reported that the NRC received three proposals which will be reviewed soon.

Proposed Charles River Watershed Association (CRWA) Climate Compact Project: Mr. Schmitt reported on a possible restoration project at the Kelly Field Tennis Courts, which was ranked highly by the Charles River Watershed Climate Compact in a list of possible municipal vulnerability projects (MVP). Should the project meet the CRWA criteria, it would be eligible for grant funding for outreach, conceptual design, and possibly construction.

Permits: A permit was issued to for the Wellesley Mothers Forum for Spring Festival at the Wellesley Town Green. The event is scheduled for April 2 and a rain date of April 3.

Approve Minutes

The committee discussed how detailed the minutes should be and asked for additional guidance on minutes.

After a motion was made and seconded, the board voted (4-0) to approve minutes for Dec. 14, 2021.

The meeting adjourned at 10:30 p.m.

Materials Referenced

Powerpoint presentation from C. Kovacs