

**NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES****February 6<sup>th</sup>, 2019, 7:00 PM****Room 008, Warren Building**

**Present:** Regina LaRocque, Chair; Raina McManus, Vice Chair; Lise Olney; Laura Robert; Katie Griffith; Brandon Schmitt, Director (left early).

**Guests:** Stanley Brooks, Michael Lueders, Paul Finger, RLA

**Public Speak**

**No one spoke on an item not on the agenda.**

**Illegal Tree Cutting at 75 Central Street**

Continued from 1.24.2019. *After a motion was made and seconded, the board voted unanimously to open the hearing associated with the cutting of public shade trees at 73-77 Central St.* Mr. Schmitt presented evidence reviewed at the January 24<sup>th</sup> meeting, as well as more photographs from the site. Mr. Brooks and Mr. Leuders addressed the board regarding the cutting. Mr. Finger explained that he was not a consulting arborist but rather a Registered landscape architect. *After a motion was made and seconded, the board voted unanimously to close the hearing.* *After a motion was made and seconded, the board voted unanimously that by directing Leuder's Tree Care to cut three public shade trees in front of their property, the landlord had broken the law.* The board then discussed fines associated with the act, and agreed that fines should be assessed. *After a motion was made and seconded, the board voted unanimously to issue fines totaling \$3,060 under MGL c.87, Sections 6, 2 and 12 to Wellesley Galleria Inc.* The board then discussed potential damages including single damages of \$3,900 and triple damages of \$11,700. *After a motion was made and seconded, the board voted unanimously to recommend single damages of \$3,900 AND triple damages of \$11,700.* Mr. Brooks objected to the discussion of damages; Ms. LaRocque replied that there would be an opportunity to discuss the board's recommendation at a future Selectmen's meeting.

**New and Continuing Business/Liaison Reports**

**Hunnewell School update:** Ms. McManus outlined the Sustainable Wellesley / NRC documentary series, including screenings of *Before the Flood* on Tuesday, April 9<sup>th</sup> and *Stink* on Tuesday, May 21<sup>st</sup>. Dinner will be served at the events, and organizers hope to partner them with the Power to Choose program.

**Softball Field Update:** Mr. Schmitt distributed draft plans and reviewed information from a meeting earlier in the day regarding updated plans for the softball field. The project managers are hoping to file a Notice of Intent in February.

**Morton Park Football Boulder:** Mr. Schmitt reported that Tory DeFazio had inquired about cleaning the boulder memorial that commemorates the Wellesley Needham football rivalry. Sustainable Wellesley and NRC dinner and movie night discussion

**Highway Cleanup Program:** Mr. Schmitt reported that the Wellesley Rotary Club had agreed to adopt a section of Route 9.

**NRC-WCC Collaboration:** Ms. Griffith and Ms. Robert explained that they would be assisting the Council with their speaker event with Spencer Davis on April 22<sup>nd</sup>. Due to the date being closer to the City Nature Challenge, the NRC hopes to announce the City Nature Challenge with the speaker series.

**Gas Leaks:** Ms. Olney explained that there will be a pre-meeting before the regional meeting with National Grid. Ms. Olney will circle with Mr. Hickey after the pre-meeting.

### **Director's Report**

**Permits:** Holi Town Green: After discussion, the board authorized Mr. Schmitt to issue this permit with the condition that the noise be limited to the immediate area and that the permittee develop a plan to reduce any waste generated at the event.

### **Approve Minutes**

1/24/2019: This item was deferred to a later date.

### **Other items not anticipated prior to posting/Schedule future meetings**

**Support letter for Fells branch children's garden CPC request:** The board authorized Mr. Schmitt to issue a letter of support for the Library Trustee's CPC request for a children's garden at the Fells branch.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 7:57 PM

\*A video of this meeting is available online at [www.wellesleymedia.org](http://www.wellesleymedia.org)

Respectfully Submitted,

*Brandon Schmitt*

Brandon Schmitt, Director