

TOWN OF WELLESLEY



MASSACHUSETTS

NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

February 6th, 2020, 7:00 PM

Approved 2-27-2020

Kingsbury Room, Wellesley Police Station

Present: Katie Griffith, Chair; Raina McManus, Vice Chair, Commissioners Regina LaRocque, Laura Robert, Nancy Braun; NRC Director Brandon Schmitt

Guests: Dave Hickey, Town Engineer; Nichole Bernier, Recreation Commission; Residents Kelly Uller, Amy Muncheck, Jim Miller, Phyllis Theerman, Jim Gorman, Scott Bender

Public Speak

The board received public comments from Kelly Uller, Amy Muncheck and Jim Miller in support of adding lights to the Hunnewell Track and Field.

New and Continuing Business/Liaison Reports

Public Speak Policy: The board discussed the value of developing a public speak policy and reviewed the existing Board of Selectmen policy. *After a motion was made and seconded, the board voted unanimously to adopt the Selectmen's existing policy.*

Citizen Petition: Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction: Mr. Bender, Ms. Theerman, and Mr. Gorman presented a citizen petition to encourage the Municipal Light Plant (MLP) to support a renewable energy rate structure which would increase the renewable energy supply and allow rate payers to opt out. The NRC is generally supportive of the efforts, and is willing to add it to a future agenda as the details of the motion become finalized.

Recreation Petition: Beehives on Town land: Recreation Commissioner Nichole Bernier presented a proposal to install bee hives managed by Best Bees, a beekeeping service, on Town land in order to support bee habitat, as well as provide educational programming for the public. The NRC was supportive of the concept.

Hunnewell Aqueduct Bathroom and Softball dugouts: Mr. Hickey presented a draft proposal for a custom container restroom at Hunnewell Field. The board was generally supportive of the designs. He also stated that the container restroom could serve as a pilot for the bathrooms and team rooms at the Hunnewell Track and Field, and the Board agreed that this seemed a reasonable approach to moving that project forward. Mr. Hickey also outlined the design for the softball dugouts at Lee field, which included brick archways.

After a motion was made and seconded, the board voted 4-0 in favor of accepting the gifts for bricks and architectural upgrade details at the Lee field dugouts.

The board also received an update on the bollard lighting replacement, which is expected to be completed in the Spring.

Enbridge Permit Request: The board discussed the Enbridge request to construct a pipeline inspection tool on Town Forest property, and authorized Mr. Schmitt to work with Town counsel to develop an agreement that is acceptable to both parties and could be voted on at the next meeting.

Climate Emergency: Ms. Griffith detailed a recent news article on Climate, and stated that a group of residents will host a Climate strike at 3PM on Fridays in front of Town Hall, in which anyone is welcome to participate. Ms. LaRocque reported that New York City recently passed a moratorium on new fossil fuel infrastructure.

3R Working Group: Ms. McManus reviewed the Zero Waste Wellesley program, being carried out by resident Valerie Gates, in which one plastic item a month is targeted for reduction for maximum impact. The January item-of-the-month is black plastic restaurant takeout food containers. Ms. Braun reviewed ongoing 3R projects, including responsible reuse, compost, zero waste kitchens, water buggy, corsage containers, and reported that the next 3R Working Group meeting will be held on February 28th.

Trails Committee: Ms. Robert reported that Boulder Brook and Centennial Reservations need bog bridges along muddy trail sections, and the projects will go through wetlands review.

Tree Protection and Planting

Upham Forest: The board reviewed a letter drafted by Ms. McManus detailing the importance of forests to the environment and agreed to send the letter to the School Committee, School Building Committee and Board of Selectmen.

Director's Report

Annual Town Meeting Warrant Articles: The board was updated on the status of NRC Town meeting articles, including the naming of the Hunnewell #2/Multipurposefield as the Diane P. Warren field; re-appropriation of funds to the softball field project; as well as revisions to the Tree Bylaw by the Planning Board.

Current Town Projects: Mr. Schmitt reported that the Duck Pond Bridge project received a positive Request for Determination of Applicability (RDA); therefore the project will require the filing of a Notice of Intent.

CPC update: Mr. Schmitt reported that he was finalizing details of the scope of services for a CPC request for a lighting consultant, and the NRC would be presenting the funding request at the February 13th CPC public meeting.

Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) Program: Mr. Schmitt explained that the final summary of findings is forth-coming.

NRC contract/Project Updates: Mr. Schmitt reported that interviews for the NRC secretary were being scheduled.

Permits: The board approved the Julie Fund for Women's Cancers event at Town Hall.

Approve Minutes/Schedule future meetings

This item was deferred until the next meeting.

Urgent items not anticipated prior to 48 hours of meeting or Previous items in Progress

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:54 PM

Materials Referenced/Discussed at the Meeting

- Wellesley Board of Selectmen Public Comment Policy 9-17-2018
- Citizen Petition Green House Gas Emissions presentation
- Lee Dugout Presentation and Plan set
- Container restroom presentation
- Upham Forest Letter
- Zero Waste Wellesley Flyer
- Best Bees Information