



## NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

February 21<sup>st</sup>, 2019, 7:00 PMGreat Hall, Wellesley Town Hall

**Attending:** Raina McManus, Vice Chair; Lise Olney; Laura Robert; Brandon Schmitt, Director.

**Guests:** Carl Nelson, Wellesley Celebrations Committee

**Public Speak**

**No one spoke on a non-agenda item.**

**New and Continuing Business/Liaison Reports**

- **Playing Fields Charter, Policy and Article 55 amendments:** Ms. Robert inquired why certain groups were not included (hockey, track and field) in the charter. *After a motion was made and seconded, the board voted unanimously to approve the Playing Fields Task Force Charter and Policy.*
- **Softball Fields Update:** Mr. Schmitt reported that an excellent Notice of Intent was submitted to the NRC, and a Wetlands Protection Committee hearing would be opened on the project on March 7. The board also discussed the addition of donor plaques on the ancillary facilities, and that those would likely need to be discussed at zoning or through the Design Review board process.
- **Gas Leaks:** Ms. Olney reported on the multi-town initiative working with National Grid. Mr. Schmitt stated that he had inquired with the Tree Wardens Association about their interest in engaging with the utilities to help reduce the impact of gas leaks on public shade trees.
- **Events:** The board discussed their co-sponsorship of the NRC-Wellesley Conservation Council's discussion with Spencer Meyer on April 22<sup>nd</sup>, as well as the City Nature Challenge, Charles River Cleanup, Toxin Free Lawn signs, Rain Barrel program, and tree benefit tagging with the Girl scouts.

**Director's Report**

- **Town Forest Project:** The board discussed implementation of the Town forest plan. Initial steps would include invasive removal at Stand #13 and selective thinning at Stand #10. Mr. Schmitt will develop a message to be sent to News and Announcement recipients, as well as local news outlets.
- **Invasive Research Update:** The board reviewed a research update from Alden Griffith, professor at Wellesley College. The research focuses on ecological demographics of Garlic mustard, and has several research plots around new England including three on NRC property in Wellesley.
- **Permits:**
  - **Simons Park:** Mr. Nelson described his permit request to host a plant sale and information table at Simons park on Saturday May 18 as part of the Wonderful Wellesley Weekend. The board recommended selling native and pollinator friendly plants. *After a motion was made and seconded, the board voted unanimously to approve the permit.*
  - **McKinnon Park:** The board reviewed two permit requests to use McKinnon park for youth soccer. Previous requests at this location had been denied due to concerns about impacts to the park and surrounding neighborhoods. *After a motion was made and seconded, the board voted 0-3 to approve the permit requests. The motion failed and the permits were denied.* The board expressed their

willingness to host a public hearing on the matter to discuss the use of the field with abutters, user groups, and the DPW should the applicant want to pursue that.

**Approve Minutes**

*After a motion was made and seconded, the board voted unanimously to approve the 1/24/2019 and 2/6/2019 minutes as amended.*

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

Town Meeting: The board agreed to plan to meet at 6PM prior to Town Meeting.

Duck pond Bridge Design: Mr. Schmitt distributed updated design plans for the Town Hall Duck Pond bridge, for which funds will be available beginning in July pending Town meeting approval.

**Adjournment**

After a motion was made and seconded, the board voted 3-0 to adjourn at 7:57PM.

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

Respectfully submitted,

*Brandon Schmitt*

Brandon Schmitt, Director