



NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION REMOTE ONLINE
MEETING AGENDA
March 4, 2021, 7 PM

Approved 3-18-2021

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

Guests: Marybeth Martello, K.C. Kato

Announcements: Ms. McManus shared the NRC's condolences for the loss of the WPC's member Toby Stover. Ms. Bezlaminovic and Ms. Robert were sworn in by the Town Clerk, Ms. Kato. Ms. McManus gave comments and thanks to retired Katie Griffith for her contribution to the NRC and Town of Wellesley during her time of service.

Public Speak: Nobody was present for public speak.

Action/Discussion Items:

- **Climate Emergency**
 - **Climate Action Plan** Ms. Martello from the town's Sustainable Energy Committee was present to share slides regarding the Wellesley's Climate Action Planning Process. The overarching goal was the reduction of our carbon footprint.
- **Open Space and Recreation Plan** Mr. Schmitt gave an update on the plan. Feedback has been received on the action matrix. The next step will be consolidating action steps. The consultant will be focusing on creating and administering a survey.
- **Pollinator Habitat Project** Ms. Bezlaminovic shared information to board about project Pollinate Wellesley. Focus has been on pollinator week in June as well as possible activities for the public regarding pollinators.
- **Track and Field Path Bollard Lighting Schedule** Ms. McManus proposed that the lights at the Track and Field path are programmed for high school sports to be on beginning on the 3rd Monday in March to July 3rd from 5:30 PM to 8:15 PM. This schedule will be revisited in the summer and fall to adjust to the change of the season.

Liaison Reports:

Trails: Ms. Robert gave a shout out to Denny of the Trails Committee for the infrastructure document he has created.

Mobility: Ms. Burson shared that Grove Street is up for bid for Wellesley's next construction project. Sidewalk completion and crosswalks will be updated along with safety improvements.

Director's Report:

- **Contract/Program/Project Updates** Mr. Schmitt gave an update on the request for quotes for Fuller Brook Park invasive removal contract. One of the bidders has experience with fish passage construction, which may be utilized in the future. A vendor was met with regarding a new harvester for Morses Pond. Site visits are being scheduled for the Tree Planting Program. 2 Cedars at 440 Washington Street (that were voted on at the 1/21/21 Tree Hearing to remain standing) have further declined due to recent storms. A letter from an arborist was submitted and Mr. Schmitt visited the trees with Paul DePhillips from the DPW's Park and Tree Division. Mr. Schmitt recommends that the trees be removed; the board was in agreement. The DCR approved the Town's Tree City USA, and it will now go to the Arbor Day Foundation. Rain barrels are available; more information will be available in the upcoming newsletter. Work is continuing with the gas leaks. The MVP Climate Compact is moving forward. The Public Lands Protection Act passed in the House, and is now moving to the Senate; an administrative letter was sent to the Senate.
- **Discuss and Possible Vote on Permit Requests: After School Basketball Hunewell Courts Use: (Wellesley Youth Basketball/Terrier Sports), STEM signage along Fuller Brook Park.** The after school basketball usage is still being worked out. The Wellesley Education Foundation requested to put up signage around Fuller Brook Park (mock-ups were shared). 10 signs will be put up for 2-3 weeks, including STEM week (April 19th). Ms. McManus proposed two weeks instead of three due to the natural erosion that will occur due to the signs being outside. Ms. Bezlaminovic shared her experience with this group in the past, stating that her sign was durable and held together after being outside for weeks. Ms. McManus shared that usually signs aren't allowed on public land, but between it being Covid and the signs being educational, and not advertising, that this can be an exception. *After a motion was made and seconded, the board voted 5-0 to approve the Wellesley Education Foundation request to have 10 signs along Fuller Brook Park for three weeks.* Mr. Schmitt will work out with the WEF the timing of these three weeks. Mr. Schmitt also mentioned that the Wellesley Mothers Forum had requested and were approved for a scavenger hunt at Morses Pond last year, and have requested to do the same for this year. Mr. Schmitt approved this request. They have also requested to have an activity in April at Longfellow Pond which will be discussed at the next meeting.

Approve Minutes:

After a motion was made and seconded, the board approved the meeting minutes for 2/18/2021 with a 4-0 vote. Ms. Bezlaminovic abstained as she was not present at the meeting.

Schedule Future Meetings:

New meetings were scheduled for Wednesday 4/14/21, 5/6/2021, 5/20/2021, 6/3/2021, 6/17/2021, 7/1/2021, 7/15/2021, 8/5/2021, & 8/19/2021.

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

N/A

Adjourn:

The meeting adjourned at 8:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Leah Wallner, NRC Clerk