

**NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES**

April 2nd, 2019, 6:00 PM

Wellesley Middle School, Room 319

Attending: Regina LaRocque, Chair; Raina McManus, Vice Chair; Laura Robert; Katie Griffith; Brandon Schmitt, Director.

Guests: Michael D'Ortenzio, Playing Fields Task Force; Jim Miller, Martha Collins.

Public Speak

Mr. Miller commended the board for considering naming the Hunnewell softball field, and recommended naming Lee field after another prominent female Wellesley resident. He also commended the board for creating a task force on lighting.

New and Continuing Business/Liaison Reports

- **Appointments and NRC Vacancy:** Ms. LaRocque outlined the process for filling the vacancy on the board.
- **Playing Fields Lighting:** Ms. LaRocque clarified that no new task force was being created and welcomed Mr. D'Ortenzio, who provided background on lighting at the High School track and field. At the time the field was completed, the proponents did not include lighting but installed conduit should lighting ever be desired in the future. Since that time, there has been interest in lighting but no additional investigation on the subject. Mr. D'Ortenzio also outlined the current list of Playing Fields Task Force projects, including bathrooms, team rooms, tennis court improvements at Sprague, the lacrosse wall and turf field replacement, as well as the installation of AED devices at the fields. Ms. LaRocque recommended that if there was interest and bandwidth, the Playing Fields Task Force and other interested parties were encouraged to open the conversation about lighting at the field and in general that would include input from the various stakeholders, and include discussions about impacts to the neighbors, lighting design and sustainability measures, equitable use of the facilities. The board also suggested that the School Committee weigh-in and outline their vision for the future of the field. Ms. Collins explained that much of the concern from the neighbors involves the impacts of increased use that would arise from lighting the field and night games when the neighborhood has historically quieted down. Ms. Robert recommended that Mr. Miller attend or send a proxy to the next Playing Fields Task Force Meeting.

Ms. LaRocque summarized the factors that will deserve consideration in the process including:

- understanding the relationship between lighting and 'intensity'/change of use
- acknowledging the need for equity between girl's and boy's teams
- acknowledging the availability of new/improved lighting technology, and our access to external expertise (Bob Parks)

- considering the effect of lights on dark sky
- including abutters and other stakeholders in the conversation
- last but not least -- thinking about how this work fits with other priorities of the PFTF
- **Naming of Hunnewell Field 2:** The board discussed the naming of Hunnewell 2 after Diane Warren. The board agreed that Town Meeting approval would be appropriate in this situation and would offer more visibility to Ms. Warren's contributions to the Town.
- **Smoking/Vaping Policy on NRC property:** The board agreed to add the NRC to the special permit being developed by the Playing Fields Task Force Policy.
- **Beavers at State Street:** Mr. Schmitt explained that he would be working with a trapper to remove the Beavers at State Street pond. The board reviewed pictures showing damage to landscaping and blockages created by the Beavers and found no other viable option but to remove the beavers from the pond.
- **Pesticide lawn sign program/Grow Green Wellesley:** Mr. Schmitt explained that 60+ homes have received a Healthy Yard sign. The board discussed proposed legislation that would overturn the state's pre-emption rules. Ms. LaRocque and Mr. Schmitt will work on drafting letters from the NRC in support of this legislation.
- **City Nature Challenge:** The board reviewed the BioBlitz poster and made recommendations for the flyer that will be distributed for the event.
- **3R working group:** This subject was not discussed.
- **Roadside clean up:** This subject was not discussed.
- **Tree planting program:** This subject was not discussed.

Director's Report

- **Bench location request:** Seaver St @ Fuller Brook Park: The board approved the proposed bench location per the plan submitted by Cricket Vlass.
- **Permits, if any:** This subject was not discussed.

Approve Minutes/Schedule future meetings

This item was deferred to a future meeting.

Urgent items not anticipated prior to 48 hours of meeting

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:55 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Brandon Schmitt, Director