

**NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES****April 25th, 2019, 7:00 PM****Warren Building, Room 008**

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

Guests: Nancy Braun, Shepard Cohen, Linda Cohen.

Public Speak

No one from the public spoke on a non-agenda item.

New and Continuing Business/Liaison Reports

Grow Green Wellesley: Ms. LaRocque reported that she had worked on a video about the Pesticide free initiative. Ms. Griffith reported that she is working with the Bates vegetable garden (and was grateful for the help from 8th grade volunteers). She is also working with Carolyn Collins on a plant ecology curriculum. Ms. LaRocque inquired about how to best disseminate the video.

City Nature Challenge: Ms. Robert announced all of the various locations for the City Nature Challenge. Ms. Robert explained that anyone can join one of the facilitated walks, or participate on their own. Participants are asked to capture 25 observations and 3-4 photos per observation. Ms. Griffith explained that data will be collated on May 2nd at the Wellesley Free Library.

3R Working Group: A meeting is scheduled for May 17th of the 3R working group.

Roadside and Town wide clean up: The board discussed the upcoming Charles River cleanup. Ms. LaRocque suggested looking at the data of how much and what type of trash is being picked up. The board discussed potential signage that might curb illegal dumping.

Adopt-A-Highway: Mr. Schmitt reported that the Rep. Peisch office has been contacted about the Adopt-A-Highway program and the lack of progress in initiating that in Wellesley.

Anti-Idling Campaign: Ms. McManus reported on the Town-wide anti-idling campaign working with various committees in Town.

Director's Report

Lee and Hunnewell field update: Mr. Schmitt reported on a meeting at the DPW with project proponents. The project had been reviewed by the Wetlands Protection Committee and would proceed to Design Review and Possibly the Zoning Board of Appeals. The project managers will return to the NRC for a final presentation after additional details are completed.

Tree Preservation Bylaw: The NRC will work with the Planning board and discuss strategies to advance the Tree Preservation bylaw, should improvements be suggested. The board discussed capturing LIDAR data for the Town.

Permits, if any: Mr. Schmitt reported a request for a Senior Project to replace defunct bird houses in Centennial Reservation. The board supported the concept.

Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Program: Mr. Schmitt distributed a letter in support of the Municipal Vulnerability program, which the board signed.

Approve Minutes/Schedule future meetings

After a motion was made and seconded, the board voted unanimously to approve the 4/8/2019 minutes as amended.

Urgent items not anticipated prior to 48 hours of meeting

Resident Shepard Cohen of Cartwright Road spoke to the rising water levels in the wetlands behind his and many neighbors' homes. He is concerned about major tree loss, increased mosquito breeding, and the potential flooding of homes. Mr. Cohen has been in contact with the town's Engineering Division to determine the cause of the exceptionally high water levels, and asked for the NRC's support where possible.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:15PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Brandon Schmitt, Director

*A recording of this meeting is available on www.wellesleymedia.org