



NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION
REMOTE ONLINE MEETING AGENDA

May 7, 2020, 7:00 PM

Approved 5-21-2020

www.wellesleymedia.org

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

Guests: Martha Collins

Public Speak

No one spoke on a non-agenda item

New and Continuing Business

- **Town Meeting Business/NRC Budget:** The board discussed possible Town meeting and election dates and the likelihood of deferring all but Finance-related Town meeting business until a future Fall Special Town Meeting.
- **Lee Field Construction Update:** The board received public comment about and discussed the lighting at the newly constructed dugouts at Lee field. The board agreed that the lights are a poor choice even if the field were to be lit for night games. Since there is no plan to light the field but the point is that the fixture choice and the angle at which it is installed results in glare and light spillage and trespass that will never be acceptable under any circumstance. **After a motion was made, the board voted unanimously to have the lights removed from the dugouts.**
- **COVID Measures in Park and Conservation land:** The board discussed a Town order wearing masks on Trails and in the parks. The board also discussed opening the gate at Morses Pond but closing the beach area. The board discussed a recent article from Harvard outlining the negative health impacts of the use of leaf blowers. Mr. Schmitt will inquire with the DPW about the impact of a potential moratorium on their use on lands under NRC jurisdiction.
- **Gas Leaks:** The board discussed appointing Regina LaRocque to continue working with the Commission on resolving gas leaks in the Community. Mr. Schmitt reported that he is working with members of the Gas Leaks Allies on a webinar regarding the impact of gas leaks on trees. The board also discussed the pipeline work in the Town Forest.

Director's Report

- **Department Update:** Mr. Schmitt reported that interviews for the secretary position were being scheduled despite an uncertain start date.
- **Current Town Projects:** This item was not discussed.

- **NRC Contract/Project/Gifts Update:** After a motion was made and seconded, the board voted unanimously to approve the gift of a bench for Betsy Rosen from a group of her friends to be installed in Boulder Brook as outlined in a map provided by landscape designer Cricket Vlass.
- **MVP Update:** Mr. Schmitt provided an update on the Wellesley MVP Action grant application as well as a regional effort working with the Charles River Watershed Association. Ms. McManus offered to participate in a Natick Action Grant program involving the South Natick Dam.
- **Permits:** This item was not discussed.

New Business/Continuing Business/Liaison Reports

- **Wellesley Nature Challenge Recap:** Ms. Griffith reported on the City Nature Challenge. Data is available on the NRC website.
- **Urgent items not anticipated prior to 48 hours of meeting or previous items in progress:** The board discussed House Bill 4650: An Act to mitigate arbovirus in the Commonwealth and agreed to send legislators a letter to reject the legislation.

Schedule Minutes/Approve Minutes

After a motion was made and seconded, the board voted unanimously to approve the April 16, 2020 minutes. The board scheduled meetings for May 21st and June 11th.

Motion to Adjourn

After a motion was made and seconded, the board voted unanimously to adjourn at 8:48 PM

A recording of this video is available on wellesleymedia.org

Respectfully submitted,

Brandon Schmitt, Director