

**NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION**  
**REMOTE ONLINE**  
**MEETING MINUTES**  
**Thursday, June 2, 2022**

**Approved 6/16/2022**

**Present:** Jay McHale, Chair; Laura Robert, Vice-Chair; Allison Burson; Bea Bezmalinovic, Secretary, Lisa Collins; Brandon Schmitt, Director

**Guests:** Martha Collins, Jim Miller, Jerry Nigro, Linda Chow (School Committee), Chris Spagnuolo, Chris Poirer, Jackson Cavallernaio, Jaden Crawford, Marc Schechtman, Stacy Kennedy, Jeanne Mayell, Kiril Selverov, Judy Barr, Hyun Kee Chung.

**Public Speak (7:00 p.m.):**

- **Martha Collins (Resident of Wellesley)** – Spoke about the NRC’s involvement in active recreation vs. passive recreation in Wellesley. She talked about Wellesley’s Climate Action and the NRC’s involvement in it.

**Public Comment on Track & Field (7:04 p.m.):**

- **Jim Miller – (50 Pine St.)** Served as co-chair for the study that was commissioned three years ago for the lighting of the T&F. Spoke to encourage the NRC to vote for the school committee plan.
- **Jerry Nigro (15 Washburn Ave.)** – Would like the NRC to vote now and vote yes on the plan that is put forward to the committee.
- **Hyun Kee Chung – (85 Sagamore Rd.)** – He called from the field to speak about his experience with youth supports at all levels. He feels that the town resources at the field would be better utilized with lights. Permanent bathrooms will also benefit.
- **Christopher Spagnuolo – (Paine St.)** – He called to support the effort of School Committee to bring together the community under the lights. The lack of bathrooms at the field is a concern. Expressed his support for accessible bathrooms and lights at the field.
- **Christopher Poirier, (93 Sagamore Rd.)** – He views this conversation as being about kids and the community. The Town’s facilities are underutilized while demand exceeds the availability. WHS has multiple activities that would benefit from access to fields. Lights would enhance access to the fields for teams after dark.
- **Judy Barr (331 Linden St.)** – Asks for a No vote on this and wants to create a town conversation about athletic needs. The field utilization study will contribute to the conversation. The argument is needed about balance between recreation and passive use. Only 1.75% of budget resources went to passive recreation. The passive recreation enjoyment of the park will be ruined by expansion of lights use.
- **Jackson Cavallerano (former WHS lacrosse player and college graduate)** - Fortunate to play on the new field, but visitors wondered about lights and bathrooms. He expressed support for the community benefits of night games under lights.
- **Jaden Crawford – (15 Rice St.)** – He acknowledged that the vote is not just the specific School committee use proposal in front of the NRC but the slippery slope to many more organizations. He asks why this project didn’t follow normal town procedure in which a need is identified, a proposal is

developed, and private funds are not sought until after review at multiple boards and approval from town meeting. He expresses concern about the investment in private funds in public fields.

- **Marc Shechtman – (an abutter on Rice Street)** - provided some historical context for development at Hunnewell including the ongoing need to balance private interests and neighborhood.
- **Stacy Kennedy (Abbot Road)** - Expressed her support for lights on the field. She voiced appreciation for the environmental resources in Wellesley but also is concerned about athlete safety during dusk practices. She urges the NRC to support the addition of lights.
- **Jeanne Mayell (27 Seaver St.)** – She spoke about the NRC’s history and role in preservation. She also mentioned concern that student-athletes are under pressure and lights will intensify pressure on athletes.
- **Kiril Selverov (27 Atwood)** – He spoke of the environmental considerations of adding lights and his concern for the potential negative impact of this project on the environment.
- **Mr. McHale** asked **Linda Chow (School Committee)** to answer the questions that were submitted to the schools prior to this meeting. Ms. Chow shared the document that is on the [Hunnewell Track & Field webpage](#). She then reviewed the questions about sounds, traffic and some about enforcement accountability and the slippery slope. She looked back at the process that Schools had followed since 2021 which were guided by the School’s needs as well as the NRC’s. Process is an illustration of how the town has a decentralized form of government.
- The Commission proceeded to discuss issues that still need to be addressed, including Article 97 and its application to the addition of lights, and maybe added to the School Committee’s plan for Hunnewell Track & Field. The NRC continued to discuss the level of disruption for neighbors on comparing practice to a game with fans.
- Ms. Chow returned to the conversation to show the schedule for practices and games in the month of October. The NRC decided to address the sound, light and effect on the neighborhood in future meetings.

### Liaison Reports

#### **Trails**

- **Ms. Robert reported on trails** – Two issues - trails is looking for improvements over at Centennial. The committee is also looking to repair the roofs of the map houses. Ms. Robert asked for volunteers who would be able to help update the map house roofs. Contact the trail committee if you would like to help - Steve Park ([spark33@gmail.com](mailto:spark33@gmail.com)) or Denny Nackoney ([dnackone@verizon.net](mailto:dnackone@verizon.net)).

#### Climate Emergency:

- **Mr. Schmitt** – mentioned that the NRC was contacted by the Charles River Watershed Association who is working with the town of Natick on the South Natick dam. They reached out and would like to come to a future meeting to discuss the project.
- **Ms. Bezmalinovic** encouraged everyone to read through the Sustainable Mobility Plan.
- **Mr. McHale** shared that the Climate Action Committee have asked to join the next NRC meeting to better work together in the future.

#### Directors Report

- Mr. Schmitt shared that he made a presentation on the **Open Space Plan** to the Planning Board and we did get a letter of review from the Planning Board. He also said the plan is being reviewed by the

regional planning agency. So there will be another letter of review from them. Mr. Schmitt requested time on the Select Board's agenda to present the Open Space Plan (June 6). The final look will be sent around for final thoughts before going to the state level.

- **Field Study** – Mr. Schmitt was out of the office with Weston and Sampson for the audit report on the fields in the town.
- **Tree Canopy** – the AP is in development and shared statistics total planting areas and the basic canopy growth.
- Mr. Schmitt shared that the NRC office is moving and may close for two days in July for the move.
- **Permit issues** – The Jimmy Fund Walk is scheduled in October. They use the Tennis courts and will approve unless there are concerns.
- Mr. Schmitt shared there are new appointments in the Trails and Wetlands committee which will be addressed in the next NRC meeting.
- **For Trails**, Mr. Schmitt shared there are promising discussions surrounding the connection from Brown Park to Garden Road.
- For the **Aqueduct bathrooms**, the plumbers will be there this week to install the plugs that are needed. Mr. Schmitt thinks the bathrooms should be worked on in June. Also talked about pruning some trees in the area.
- **Reeds Pond issues** – The NRC received a letter of concerns about the pond and the sediment in Reed's Pond. Ken who manages the ponds said Duck Pond needs to be dredged and Reed's Pond is getting close.

#### **Approved Minutes**

- The NRC approved the minutes, 4-0, for 5/19/2022 after some minor edits. Allison Burson was absent.

#### **Adjoin:**

- The meeting adjourned at 10:52 p.m.