

**NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION  
REMOTE ONLINE  
MEETING MINUTES**

**Thursday, July 7, 2022**

**Approved 8/4/2022**

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

**Guests:** Wayne Everett, Jeanne Mayell, Tom Harrington

**Welcome & Meeting Guidelines**

**Public Speak**

**Wayne Everett – 29 Rice Street** – Mr. Everett shared data from his study of activity on field utilization. He asked that scheduling is important as well as a clear permitting process including fees, how DPW funded to maintain the fields and questioned the funding of the field upon installation of lights. He believes the lights is a business decision and proceeds the Wesson & Samson analysis. The NRC needs to wait for recommendations from the analysis.

**Jeanne Mayell** – Spoke about the science of light and noise disturbing wildlife. She spoke about allowing lights at Hunnewell Field and the impact it will have on the residence. Ms. Mayell talked about the article in [The Atlantic](#) and NPR has covered the issue the impact light and noise have on the environment. And asked the NRC to be aware of the legacy the commission will leave if a yes vote occurs.

**Hunnewell Track and Field Proposal**

- Mr. McHale introduced town counsel, Tom Harrington, to respond to the letter submitted by six residents from Precinct H. Mr. Harrington explained his position as town counsel and who he represents. He then shared the questions the NRC members have about the process of installing lights at Hunnewell Track and Field Proposal. He proceeded to answer the questions submitted. The discussion was surrounded around the NRC's role, the approval of the project, the permitting of the land, enforcing the limits in the proposal, the question of Change of Use concerning the addition of lights, and a discussion about Article 97 and if lights are a violation of the article. Mr. Harrington went through the 11 questions submitted and answered any questions from the board about the lighting of the field.
- Mr. Harrington reviewed the rules about Gift Acceptance concerning Question 11 B – There will be gift acceptance for increased private funding for real property. Mr. Schmitt shared that Article 5 was the gift acceptance rule.
- Mr. McHale asked Ms. Bezmalinovic, to review the Draft of the Lighting Usage Policy. Ms. Bezmalinovic had Mr. Schmitt shared the draft as members discussed the document. She spoke about oversight of the fields and explained the policy needs to be updated. Ms. Bezmalinovic continued to stress the fact that the document is a work in progress and will be a living document.
- The discussion continued with Ms. Burson, Ms. Collins and Mr. McHale explaining that NRC policies across the board will need to be adjusted when the NRC holds its retreat in the fall.

- Ms. Bezmalinovic continued with her presentation about accountability and enforcement of playing field.
- She highlighted major changes in the policy and went through the changes. Mr. McHale question the NRC to allow a one evening town-sponsored event per fiscal year. Ms. Robert questioned the change in language concerning the ZBA. Mr. Harrington returned to answer Ms. Robert question concerning the ZBA's involvement.
- Ms. Robert explained she feels there is no control in this policy on use and number of events. And would like the NRC to have restrictions to events and feels it's very loose and the (NRC) has a duty to all the residents to put limits on event numbers.
- Ms. Bezmalinovic continued to explain the adjustments in the policy, including the number of night practice on the field in a school year. She explained this is not the final language and a number of issues need to be addressed including enforcement.
- Ms. Robert questioned the section of Purpose and questioned the School Committee if responsible for lights. Ms. Bezmalinovic and Ms. Robert discussed the use of the word operating when concerning the use of lights.
- The discussion continued on language concerning the number of games.
- Ms. Collins felt the current discussion was not moving the commission forward toward a common ground.
- Ms. Bezmalinovic asked for any changes and to send through Mr. Schmitt.
- Mr. McHale explained it's a living document and will be worked on and show the neighbors that the NRC will hold Schools accountable.
- Ms. Collins put the motion forward to approve the Schools Committees proposal to install lights at Hunnewell Track & Field with the condition that the use of the lighting will be limited to yearly parameters (to be memorialized as part of NRC's policies and included in request to the ZBA to add to conditions):
  - o for Wellesley High School only
  - o 15 night games (not inclusive of playoff games),
  - o six night practices,
  - o on an as needed basis to complete shoulder season day games and practices
  - o Wellesley HS graduation
- Additional use, subject to NRC approval, shall be limited to:
  - o Additional games if requested by both the MIAA/Bay State Conference and WHS
  - o One-off usage as approved by the NRC
- Mr. McHale asked for a second motion. Ms. B seconded the motion put forth by Ms. Collins with assumption the NRC has control to revisit the sound policy and issues that will arise with accountability and enforcement of lights. And hoped to add this all to the agenda in September.
- Ms. Robert explained that she hoped to talk about trash, traffic more as well as costs because she didn't think the NRC doesn't have enough answers.
- Mr. McHale adjusted the language on additional approval if requested
- Discussion continued about the language in the policy. Ms. Robert thinks language needs to be added about traffic, trash, noise and lights within the motion.
- Mr. Harrington added that the NRC can amend the motion and asks that someone needs to identify the language for the amendment. He explains it (the language in the proposal) can be an ongoing process if approved.
- Mr. McHale requested to vote on the motion as stated. ***After a motion was made and seconded, the Board voted 3-2 (McHale, Collins and Bezmalinovic for, Robert and Burson against) in favor of light of Hunnewell Track and Field.***

- Mr. McHale thanked the Schools and the board for the effort throughout this process even though it is not done.
- Ms. Robert wanted it to be on the record that her no vote was not only because of too many unanswered questions, and that she does not believe that it is a good place for lights in the middle of the neighborhood, on the river front in Fuller Brook Park. Ms. Robert explained she didn't think they did a good job looking for alternatives and thinks it's a significant change and not consistent with what we want to do as a town in terms of sustainable neighborhoods and climate action. She wanted to clarify that she doesn't believe it belongs there and they could have come up with a different solution for night games without effecting Fuller Brook Park and the neighborhood.
- Mr. McHale moved onto Liaison Reports.

### Liaison Reports

- **Trails** –Ms. Robert announced a Kids Trails Day and the Fall Trail Guide tour schedule is up on the website – [Guided Walk](#)
- Ms. Robert sent kudos to Denny on the completion of the Hundreds path. He marked it with arrows and encouraged residents to walk the path when you get a chance. Mr. McHale thanked the Condo Association for allowing Trails to put up signage through their property to complete the trail.

### Climate Emergency:

- Ms. Burson added the fact that the Supreme Court vote on EPA and how it will affect the future.

### Directors Report

- Ms. Burson added the fact that the Supreme Court vote on EPA and how it effect the future.\
- Mr. Schmitt reported that the **Aqueduct bathroom** was installed at Hunnewell Field. It should be running at the end of the month.
- The update on the **Utilization Study** is that information was still being gathered from various permitted groups. More information will be shared at upcoming meetings as it progresses.
- The **Retrofit Lights** – the DPW is working on shop drawings and then will be ordered. Mr. Schmitt reported it will be another 8-12 weeks before the order is done. According to the contractor it will be a five-day install process. The field may be closed for a couple days.
- **Tree Canopy** – The NRC's intern Logan is working on the on-ground census. The NRC may send out a request to residents who may be interested in the tool and get their feedback on what they may find useful.
- Mr. Schmitt may send out question to the NRC board with questions on their interaction with the staff as he wraps up evaluations and the budget for the fiscal year.
- Mr. Schmitt shared with the board that the **Pesticide Bill** are asking for letters of support. The **Watertown Dam Removal** letter support the CRW Association asked for the NRC's input on the Natick Dam and the Watertown Dam Removal. Mr. Schmitt provided a copy of the letter to the board. And focuses on several issues – historic, land and benefits the watershed communities would see from the removal. The Climate Control Director offered to come and speak to the NRC. Mr. Schmitt asked table the dam removal for another night.
- Mr. Schmitt explained the Pesticide Bill that needs support. The NRC decided not to sign it until they can read through all the information.
- Mr. Schmitt explained the next scheduled meeting is August 4 in the Warren Room unless there is an extension from the state for a hybrid meeting.

**Approved Minutes**

- The NRC approved the minutes, 4-0, for 6/16/2022. Ms. Robert added edits through Mr. Schmitt. Ms. Burson abstained on approval due to the fact she was not at that meeting.

**Adjourn:**

- The meeting adjourned at 9:36 p.m.