



## NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Approved 8-1-2019

July 18<sup>th</sup>, 2019, 7:00 PMKingsbury Room, Wellesley Police Station

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

**Guests:** Michelle Chalmers, President of World of Wellesley

Public Speak

No one spoke on a non-agenda item.

New and Continuing Business/Liaison Reports

- **World of Wellesley (WOW) Indigenous People's Day:** Michelle Chalmers, President of WOW, discussed plans for an Indigenous People's Day celebration, planned for Sunday October 13 and Monday October 14. Ms. Chalmers explained that as part of the celebration, WOW wants to honor the environment and would therefore like to include an NRC event as part of other activities. Ms. McManus explained that there may be some concern as the Town has not adopted the day as an official holiday, but would like to explore further. Ms. Robert inquired as to what type of NRC activity would best honor and be compatible with the celebration. Ms. Griffith stated that she was on the board of World of Wellesley, and clarified the World of Wellesley's suggestion of an NRC Trails day or guided hike activity, trash cleanup event, or obtaining a permit for the use of open space for people to congregate. Ms. McManus stated that obtaining a permit would not be a problem. The board thanked Ms. Chalmers for her attendance and agreed to continue the discussion.
- **Appointment to Trails Committee - Laura Robert:** *After a motion was made and seconded, the board voted unanimously to appoint Laura Robert to the Trails Committee.*
- **NRC Director Performance Evaluation:** Ms. McManus stated that she and Ms. Griffith had met with Director Brandon Schmitt to conduct his annual performance review. Results of the review were summarized, the Board accepted the content, and Mr. Schmitt was congratulated on a successful evaluation.
- **Bench Donation at Fuller Brook Park:** Mr. Schmitt reviewed a request from the DPW to add a bench donated by the Kessler family in honor of Andy Kessler. The board approved of the new bench and location.
- **Warren Park Oak Tree Removal Discussion:** *After a motion was made and seconded, the board voted 4-0 to approve the removal of the 57" Red Oak at Warren park that had been evaluated and deemed a hazard tree.*
- **Spencer Meyer Presentation Outreach:** Mr. Schmitt reported that Ms. Robert had created a letter that was sent to the Advisory Committee, Board of Selectmen, Planning Board, and Community Preservation Committee inviting them to review the materials from the Spencer Meyer presentation.
- **Outreach and Education:** Mr. Schmitt recapped the NRC staff's involvement in the EcoCamp at the North 40.
- **Roadside and Town wide clean up:** This item was not discussed.
- **Grow Green Wellesley:** Ms. McManus reported that Wellesley media had isolated a portion of the video of the June 20<sup>th</sup> NRC meeting where the board discussed services that spray for mosquitos.
- **July Jubilation:** Members of the board will be staffing the NRC table at the July Jubilation event.
- **Statewide Plastic Bag Ban:** Ms. McManus reported to the board that a re-drafted version of the statewide plastic bag ban had left the initial committee. The new bill allowed bags over 4 mil and included pre-emption measures that would effectively nullify the local bans. The board agreed to send correspondence to the legislators asking them to not support the new, watered down and potentially harmful bill.
- **Current Town Projects-Tailby/Railroad Lots, Wellesley Office park, Softball Fields.**

Mr. Schmitt reported that a Public Hearing is scheduled on August 7<sup>th</sup> to discuss the Morses Pond Beach and Bath house feasibility project, and that the zoning hearing for the Lee and Hunnewell softball field renovation projects closed on July 11th.

### **Director's Report**

- **Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) Program:** Mr. Schmitt reported that Wellesley had received technical guidance to begin selection of an approved vendor to lead the MVP Planning process.
- **Charles River Compact:** Mr. Schmitt reported that the first meeting of the Charles River Climate compact was scheduled for August 1<sup>st</sup>.
- **Climate Week:** The board discussed the possibility of requesting a proclamation or resolution from the Board of Selectmen to designate a week in September as Climate week. Due to the scheduling of the MVP and Climate Compact, the board declined making this request at this time.
- **NRC contract/Project Updates:** Mr. Schmitt reported that the Duck Pond bridge project design was nearly completed and will be submitted to Design Review Board on August 2 for a hearing on the 11<sup>th</sup>, before going to Wetlands Protection Committee.
- **Permits, if any:** The NRC issued a permit for the Barefoot soccer event for Hunnewell field for August 10-11.

### **Approve Minutes/Schedule future meetings**

After a motion was made and seconded, the board voted unanimously to approve the 6/20/2019 minutes as amended.

### **Urgent items not anticipated prior to 48 hours of meeting**

The board discussed a request from the Wellesley House and Garden Club to install an educational pollinator sign at Central park. No action was taken.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 PM

\*A video of this meeting is available on [www.wellesleymedia.org](http://www.wellesleymedia.org)

Respectfully submitted,

Brandon Schmitt, Director