



NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Approved 9-19-2019

August 1st, 2019, 7:00 PM

Juliani Room, Wellesley Town Hall

Present: Regina LaRocque, Chair; Raina McManus, Vice Chair; Katie Griffith; Nancy Braun; Brandon Schmitt, Director

Guests: Vanni Kapoor; Catherine Johnson, Planning Board.

Public Speak

Ms. Kapoor updated the board on her efforts to reduce waste in Town, including strategies to publicize a letter to New Balance, and coordination with Whole Foods on the next plastic pickup.

New and Continuing Business/Liaison Reports

- **Tree Preservation Bylaw:** The NRC and Ms. Johnson discussed the Planning Board and NRC's common goal to consider revisions to the Tree Preservation Bylaw. Ms. LaRocque reported that there was a need for quantitative data on the Town's tree canopy. The board discussed formation of a small subcommittee with a member from both Planning and the NRC to work on this issue.
- **Retreat Planning:** The board discussed planning for the retreat on Saturday, September 7th. Ms. McManus is working on a draft outline.
- **Outreach and Education** Ms. McManus reported that the NRC table was a success at July Jubilation. Ms. LaRocque suggested that we could offer the school librarians suggestions for books on ecology or environmental science. Mr. Schmitt reviewed various activities being led by the Outreach and Environmental Education Coordinator.
- **Roadside and Town-wide clean up:** The board discussed the August 26th cleanup event with the high School football team, and suggested identifying several locations to send the students, as well as how to publicize their efforts. The board also discussed potential signage at Reeds Pond and the Wetlands Protection Committee's efforts to reduce waste entering Abbott brook (Memorial Grove).
- **Grow Green Wellesley:** Mr. Schmitt reported that the DPW, as part of the Right of Way Management program, had applied pesticide to control poison ivy at Beebe meadow. This application was the final application of Glyphosate, and the DPW does not intend to use the product again.
- **Statewide Plastic Bag Ban:** Ms. McManus reported that she had submitted a letter about the statewide ban from the NRC to Senator Rebecca Rausch.
- **Playing Fields Task Force (PFTF):** Ms. Griffin updated the board on the Playing Fields Lighting subcommittee work, which includes an upcoming draft recommendation.
- **Current Town Projects:** Mr. Schmitt reported that the Morses Pond erosion project is expected to begin soon. Ms. LaRocque mentioned the renaming of the Diane Warren field. Ms. McManus reported on the Morses Pond bathhouse meeting scheduled for August 7th.
- **Spencer Meyer Presentation Outreach:** Ms. Griffith attended a joint meeting with members of the Wellesley Conservation Council and their concept to designate a North 40 weekend. They plan to organize a bioblitz on September 29th, piggy backing on the Trails Committee North 40 hike on the 28th. The group also discussed creating a nature badge program, linking experiences and building communities. Ms. LaRocque also mentioned a tactic used by some of the communities in Western Massachusetts to sell conservation land for carbon offsets.
- **Watershed/Wellhead Protection:** The board will explore this topic at the retreat.
- **Gas Leaks:** Ms. LaRocque reported on efforts in several communities to continue raising awareness

Director's Report

- **Vernal Pool Ribbon Cutting:** Mr. Schmitt reported that the grand opening for the North 40 vernal pool is scheduled for Saturday September 7th at 12:30. Ms. LaRocque suggested honoring the volunteers with a thank you note.
- **Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) Program:** Mr. Schmitt reported that he had met with the Planning Director and SEC staff to review a Request for Proposals for the MVP program, and would be sending that out soon with hopes to contract with an approved vendor later in the month.
- **Charles River Compact:** Mr. Schmitt attended the first Climate compact meeting in Natick and reported back on some great work being done by other communities, including Urban forest assessments.
- **NRC contract/Project Updates:** Mr. Schmitt reported that the Duck Pond bridge project had been submitted to the DRB for review and to be discussed at the Design Review Board on August 14.
- **Permits:** Mr. Schmitt discussed a permit request from the Senior banquet committee to hold the High School Senior banquet at Hunnewell field for June 2nd. The board supported the idea, but has questions about intensity of use, waste and noise.

Approve Minutes/Schedule future meetings

After a motion was made and seconded, the board voted unanimously to approve the 7/18/2019 minutes as amended.

Urgent items not anticipated prior to 48 hours of meeting

N/A

Adjournment

After a motion was made and seconded, the board voted unanimously to adjourn at 8:38 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Brandon Schmitt, Director