



NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Katie Griffith, Chair
 Raina McManus, Vice Chair
 Laura Robert
 Regina LaRocque
 Nancy Braun

Brandon Schmitt, Director
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September 7th, 2019, 9:00 AMM Arnold Room, Wellesley Free Library

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

NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION PLANNING RETREAT 2019

Goals and Action Steps Resulting from the NRC'S Annual Planning Retreat on Saturday, September 7, 2019:

1. Education and Engagement

- a. Continue to explore how best to utilize the Environmental Educational Coordinator position
- b. Outreach to School Committee, curriculum staff and local residents to expand environmental education or experiential learning with possible college preparation component
- c. Develop "menu" of NRC educational and stewardship offerings
- d. Involve DPW horticultural staff where possible.
- e. Develop competitive bio-blitz type activity
- f. Develop Youth Naturalist certification Town decision making integration
- g. Improve messaging:
 - i. Brand environmental education campaign
 - ii. Create flyers detailing preservation benefits:
 1. Biodiversity, carbon sequestration, flood control, air and water quality
- h. Public Events:
 - i. Host U-40 gala
 - ii. Host forum on benefits of environmental education
- i. Continue to solicit and endorse youth clean-up efforts
- j. Contact the Eco Camp kids

2. 3R Working Group and Waste Reduction

- a. Define roles and goals
 - i. Develop restaurant info packets to encourage waste reduction
 - ii. Explore no mow/no rake areas
- b. Amplify 3R messaging to greater community

3. Open Space Management: North 40 and Ponds

- a. North 40: Work with CPC to explore the value of preservation vs. other potential uses
- b. Engage with other boards: Selectmen, Planning - consider joint meetings for better integration of our efforts throughout town.
- c. Engage DPW and FMD in the Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness plan

4. Tree Canopy Preservation and Expansion

- a. Document ongoing efforts at Town Forest, include in Facebook posts and Newsletters

- b. Continue to explore improvements to the Tree Bylaw
- c. Explore additional tree planting opportunities in NRC parklands
- d. Consider expanding planting through contractor or with capital improvements (auger)
- e. New Campaign: Trees: Free to a Good Home!

5. Grow Green Wellesley

6. Playing Fields

- a. Explore working with Colleges for field time
- b. Create field development specifications
- c. Support work of Lighting subcommittee

7. Gas Leaks

- a. Highlight gas leaks with “leak of the week”
- b. Install signage at gas leaks of Environmental Importance
- c. Draft editorial for gas blow-off and Environmental Important leaks

8. Lighting

- a. Continue to explore lighting standards for NRC properties
- b. Review new Lighting bylaw and how it interfaces with NRC properties
- c. Explore latest streetlight technology for use around conservation areas

9. Legislative Advocacy

- a. Continue existing work at the State level on issues affecting Wellesley

10. Leaf Blowers

- a. Explore possible remedies for leaf blower noise and air pollution