



NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

September 19th, 2019, 6:00 PM

Kingsbury Room, Wellesley Police Station

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

Guests: Girl Scout Troop 66063, Jill Fischmann and Colleen Lussier, Girl scout troop leaders; Elizabeth Lange; Janie Penn

Public Speak

Ms. Lange and Ms. Penn both expressed their interest in preserving the white oak tree at Hunnewell school.

Girl Scout Troop 66063 Presentation

Members of troop 66063 presented a report to the NRC, requesting consideration of creating a dedicated dog park in Wellesley.

New and Continuing Business/Liaison Reports

- **FY21 Budget Discussion:** The board discussed the departmental and Morses Pond budgets.
- **Retreat Recap:** The board reviewed preliminary notes from the 2019 retreat.
- **H.897, An Act Relative to Forest Protection:** The board reviewed a letter in support of the legislation and agreed to send it to our representatives.
- **H.853, An Act to assure the attainment of greenhouse gas emissions goals in the alternative portfolio standard:** The board reviewed a letter in support of the legislation and agreed to send it to our representatives.
- **Outreach and Education**
 - North40 Weekend:* The board discussed upcoming North 40 weekend activities, including a Trails Committee led hike on the 28th, and a bio-blitz on the 29th.
 - Review conservation preservation handout:* The board reviewed a flyer outlining the benefits of public open space.
- **Wellesley League of Women Voters Meet Up: October 17:** Ms. McManus announced the LWV event where the public can meet their elected officials.
- **Community Preservation Committee:**
- **Gas Leaks:** Mr. Schmitt reported that he had attended a recent meeting of the Gas Leaks Allies in Arlington where the group discussed an upcoming meeting with Executives from National Grid, and strategies for members to improve communication and coordination with the utilities.
- **Tree Preservation Bylaw Update:** Ms. Robert reported that there was an upcoming meeting to identify possible edits to the bylaw.
- **Playing Fields Task Force:** Ms. Griffith provided updates from the prior PFTF meeting, including progress reports on the softball fields, and upcoming lighting subcommittee report.
- **Roadside and Town-wide clean up:** This item was not discussed.
- **Grow Green Wellesley:** This item was not discussed.
- **Statewide Plastic Bag Ban:** Ms. McManus reported on the status of the possible state bag ban, and concerns about that legislations weakening of the local regulations.
- **Current Town Projects**
 - Tailby/Railroad Lots, Wellesley Office park, Softball Fields, Morses Pond
- **Spencer Meyer Presentation Outreach:** This item was not discussed.
- **Watershed/Wellhead Protection:** This item was not discussed.

Director's Report

- **North 40 Woodland Trail:** Mr. Schmitt presented a proposal from the Trails Committee to create a new wooded path at the North40 to create a more logical loop path near the vernal pool boardwalk. The board supported the concept, which would require Board of Selectmen review and approval.
- **Update: State Aerial Mosquito Spraying:** Mr. Schmitt reported that the state spraying for mosquitos had been completed, and that personal protection measures were still recommended.
- **Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) Program: Mr. Schmitt provided a progress report on the MVP program including a core team meeting scheduled for October 22nd.**
- **Charles River Compact:** Mr. Schmitt reported that Wellesley will be hosting an upcoming meeting of the CRCC on October 3rd.
- **NRC contract/Project Updates: Mr. Schmitt** Duck Pond Bridge Design approval
- **Permits, if any:** Mr. Schmitt reported that a permit had been issued for the use of parkland around Town Hall for the Climate Strike scheduled for September 20.

Approve Minutes/Schedule future meetings

After a motion was made and seconded, the board voted unanimously to approve the meeting minutes from 6/24/2019, 8/1/2019 and 8/22/2019.

The board scheduled a meeting for October 24th.

Urgent items not anticipated prior to 48 hours of meeting

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:45

Inter-board meeting

Members of the NRC attended the inter-board meeting at Town Hall.

Respectfully submitted,

Brandon Schmitt

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