



## NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Approved 11.21.2019

October 24<sup>th</sup>, 2019, 7:00 PMWarren Building Room 008

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

**Guests:** Jon Bonsall, Joe Bruno, Joe Feist, Bill Simmons, Gary Farner, Donna Armentano, Curt Nordgard, Barbara Pyles, Mike Tyrral, Wayne Everett, Marlene Allen, Jill Creevy, Paul Cramer

Public Speak

No one spoke on a non-agenda related item.

Letter RE Gas Releases

The board received a report from Dr. Noorgard regarding recent blowdowns in Newton, Weston and Wellesley. The board reviewed a draft letter to the legislators and had no revisions.

Enbridge Pipeline maintenance request

Representatives from Enbridge requested permission to perform survey work on Town Forest land between Emerson and Cedar Street related to the J-1 system modification. The process would also require vacating the line of gas. Inspections are required every 7 years, and this specific multi-diameter pipeline was inspected in the Spring of 2019 with a multi-diameter inspection device. The survey work is expected to inform the applicants on how to construct a facility to insert an inspection device that would detect "anomalies" which can be a dent, gouge, corrosion or foreign utility. The board inquired why the work could not be done on the existing easement, how the gas from the vacated pipe would be captured, how the methane release would be measured, and if the nature of the work being requested would be characterized as routine. The applicant explained that recompression is not a normal process, but would be completed on this project. After discussion, and due to existing questions, Mr. Schmitt will be reviewing the request with Town Counsel to determine future steps.

New and Continuing Business/Liaison Reports

- **Animal Control: Beavers at State Street:** Mr. Schmitt reported that Beavers were obstructing the drainage at State Street pond, and would likely need to be trapped unless Mike Callahan of Beaver Solutions found a viable alternative. The board agreed that Mr. Schmitt should work with the DPW to trap once the trapping season had begun.
- **Natick MVP Project Letter of Support:** The board reviewed and approved submitting a letter of support for an MVP action grant project being submitted by the Town of Natick.
- **Softball Field Donor Recognition and Construction sign:** Ms. Creevy outlined the current and proposed donor recognition elements for the Lee and Hunnewell softball field renovations. After discussion, the board supported the proposed private donor recognition ideas, and including the Community Preservation Committee's contribution. The board also agreed to inclusion of a construction banner, and recommended including contact info for the project manager, adding both the Hunnewell and Lee field images, and also indicating that donor opportunities are still available.
- **Tree Preservation, Planting:** The board reviewed some ideas to promote tree planting, and discussed relocation of the Hunnewell oak. The board directed Mr. Schmitt to send a letter to the

SBC and SC to indicate that the NRC and several residents supported relocating the tree, and ask that those committees consider it.

<https://timber.constantcontactsites.com/>, Hunnewell oak, bylaw Update

- **Outreach and Education:** Mr. Schmitt reported on the recent Bates and Sprague Morses Pond Field Trips. Ms LaRocque reported her efforts working with local educators.
- **Playing Fields Task Force:** Ms. Griffith provided an updated on the work of the playing fields lights subcommittee, including neighbor feedback in the report. Ms. Griffith discussed the Hunnewell field sound policy and feedback from the abutters regarding the volume of the sound system and adding contact information for those wishing to provide feedback. Ms. Griffith also read the policy regarding portable sound systems. Ms. Allen addressed the board regarding her concerns about the decibel levels as well as the addition of lights, and requested that the NRC apply a standard to NRC property that activities not be permitted that would be substantially detrimental to the neighborhood. Mr. Everett provided two articles regarding recommendations for noise limits as they relate to public health. Ms. Griffith recommended revising the policy to include the NRC and Athletic Department to the existing policy.
- **Grow Green Wellesley:** The board discussed upcoming testimony on November 12<sup>th</sup> for several pesticide related bills before the Legislature. A few Bates students plan to attend the hearings as well.
- **3R Working Group:** Ms. Braun reported on a recent meeting, where the 3R group agreed to post no-idling signage at the RDF, catalogue choice, and leaving the leaves campaign, food waste reduction and composting.
- **Current Town Projects:** Mr. Schmitt thank Michael Grosso and members of his Boy Scout troop for their efforts installing infiltrating stairs at one of the known erosion problem sites at Morses Pond.
- **Statewide Plastic Bag Ban:** This item was not discussed.
- **Roadside and Town-wide clean up:** This item was not discussed.
- **Gas Leaks:** See discussion above.
- **Watershed/Wellhead Protection:** This item was not discussed.

### Director's Report

- **Budget Re-appropriation request:** After a motion was made and seconded, the board voted unanimously to ask Town Meeting to approved reallocating the funds from Boulder brook to the softball fields.
- **Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) Program:** Mr. Schmitt provided an update on the MVP program. *Wellesley Will*, Core Team meeting
- **Charles River Compact:** This item was not discussed.
- **NRC contract/Project Updates**
- **Permits, if any:** The board agreed to issue a permit for the Wonder Run with the same conditions from the last year.

### Approve Minutes/Schedule future meetings

After a motion was made and seconded, the board voted unanimously to approve the 10/3/2019 minutes as drafted.

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

N/A

### Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:55 PM