



WELLESLEY NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION

Insights from Outside An Update from the NRC

December 2018

The NRC Welcomes Lisa Moore, Our New Environmental Education & Outreach Coordinator



This month, the NRC welcomes **Lisa Moore** as our new Environmental Education and Outreach Coordinator. Here is a message from Lisa to introduce herself:

Hello and happy December! I am a Wellesley resident with a passion for environmental education and conservation. I have been a science educator teaching biology and environmental science to students in kindergarten through college for more than 20 years. I'm currently a teacher naturalist for Mass Audubon's Broadmoor Wildlife Sanctuary and the Naturalist in Residence at Pine Hill Elementary School in Sherborn. In addition to my work as an educator, I also write for the Wellesley Hometown Weekly, with a focus on town events and nature themed articles. In my new role with the NRC, I look forward to sharing information about our environmental education and conservation efforts, and will help develop programs that support the NRC mission and goals. We welcome your ideas and comments. You can call me, 781-431-1019 ext. 2290, or email lmoore@wellesleyma.gov.

NRC Project Updates & Announcements

Vernal Pool Boardwalk Construction to Begin Soon!

The NRC project to enhance the vernal pool at the North 40 will



break ground in the next few weeks. The project will feature a boardwalk and educational signage that will be accessible from Turner Road. Volunteer opportunities will be posted soon! Many thanks to the [Community Preservation Committee](#) for providing funding for this project.

[Click here to learn more about vernal pools and why it's so important to protect them.](#)

Wellesley Residents Learn About Health of Our Ponds at NRC Forum

At our October forum "Saving Our Ponds," residents got a comprehensive view of our watershed and how we can all help maintain the health of the nine major ponds in Wellesley. Speakers were **Julie Dyer Wood**, Director of Projects for the Charles River Watershed Association; Morses Pond Manager **Ken Wagner** of Water Resources Services; and **Richard Howell**, President of Friends of Morses Pond and the Wetlands Protection Committee. This forum was co-sponsored by the Wellesley Department of Public Works, Recreation Department, Sustainable Wellesley, Friends of Morses Pond, and the Friends of Brookside.



Panel at "Saving Our Ponds," on October 18, 2018.

[Click here to watch the presentation](#)

[Click here to read audience questions answered by experts](#)

Want an easy way to cut pollution and improve our air in Wellesley?

Just turn the key and be idle free! Turning off your car engine saves fuel and decreases harmful emissions. Some important facts about idling:

- Two minutes of idling uses as much gas as driving one mile, and every gallon of gas used when idling produces 17 pounds of CO₂, a dangerous greenhouse gas.
- There is no need to idle to warm up your car! Driving actually warms up your car faster than idling.
- Ten seconds of idling wastes more fuel than restarting the engine.
- It's illegal in Massachusetts to idle for more than five minutes. There's a \$100 fine for the first offense, \$500 for subsequent offenses.
- Three pounds of pollution per month are generated by every vehicle dropping off and picking up kids at school. Turn your engine off to decrease pollution.
- More than 40 hazardous pollutants are emitted from engine exhaust. Air pollution is one of the leading triggers of asthma attacks. Air pollution affects children more than adults, children breathe 50% more air per pound of body weight than adults.

Wellesley NRC Joins Coalition on Gas Leaks

The NRC has been working to better understand the pervasive



problem of more than 200 gas leaks from deteriorating pipes in Wellesley. We know that these leaks are adversely affecting our health, our environment, and our public shade trees. This fall, NRC board member **Lise Olney** and Town Engineer **Dave Hickey** have been attending meetings convened by the Metropolitan Area Planning Council, HEET, and Mothers Out Front to allow representatives from various towns to discuss common concerns about the handling of gas leaks by National Grid. The goal is to come up with a list of requests to present to National Grid to improve and accelerate the gas leak repair process.

Meanwhile, the NRC also submitted written testimony to the Joint Committee on Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy (TUE) at the State House, for an oversight hearing on gas safety held on Tuesday, December 11, 2018. [Click here to read the NRC testimony.](#)

News From Our Partners



Town of Wellesley Receives Award

This month, the Town of Wellesley was awarded a **Leading by Example Award** by the Commonwealth in recognition of the town's clean energy and environmental efforts, including the innovative surplus food recovery program developed by the Sustainable Energy Committee, the MLP's solar initiative, and the Facilities Management Division's efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in municipal buildings by 24 percent over the past ten years.

New Video on Municipal Light Plant Streetlight Project

Town Communications Manager **Stephanie Hawkinson** just completed a great new video with Wellesley Media about the streetlight retrofit project undertaken by the **Wellesley Municipal Light Plant**. The streetlight retrofit will cut 1,025,959 kilowatt-hours of electricity every year, equivalent to taking 152 regular-sized passenger vehicles off the road. The MLP allowed some high-pressure sodium fixtures to remain in environmentally sensitive areas at the request of the NRC.



[Watch the video to learn more about this exciting improvement project](#)

Upcoming Events

NRC events and those of NRC committees appear in bold.

- **December 13, 2018, 7 pm - Wetlands Protection Committee meeting.**
- December 19, 2018, 1 pm - [Home Energy Savings Seminar](#), at the Tolles-Parsons Center (500 Washington Street), sponsored by the Sustainable Energy Committee.
- **December 20, 2018, 7 pm - NRC meeting. Location TBD.**
- **January 3, 2019, 7 pm - NRC meeting. Location TBD.**
- January 11, 2019 - Last day to pick up nomination papers from the Town Clerk's office to run for town-wide office.
- **January 17, 2019, 7 pm - NRC meeting. Location TBD.**
- January 25, 2019 - Last day to pick up nomination papers to run for Town Meeting.
- Save the Date: Town Election, March 5, 2019, 7 am to 8 pm.

[Web site](#) [Permit guide](#) [Meeting agendas](#) [Current NRC projects](#)

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