

**NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION**  
**MEETING MINUTES**  
**October 20, 2015 7:00 PM**  
**Kingsbury Room, Wellesley Police Station**

**Approved 11/5/2015**

**Attending** Stephen Murphy, Chair; Lise Olney, Vice Chair; Raina McManus, Secretary;  
Joan Gaughan; Heidi Gross; Brandon Schmitt, Director

**Guests** Michelle West, Horsley Witten Group; Tripp Sheehan, Chrissy Lawrence, High School Stadium Fund; Miguel Lessing, Richard Howell, David Himmelberger, Eric Rustle, Associate Town Counsel

**Public Voice** No one spoke at Public Voice

**H.S. field Connor Darcey Acknowledgement**

Mr. Sheehan and Ms. Lawrence reviewed a request on behalf of the Connor Darcey Field Fund to acknowledge Connor at the new High School Track and Field with an engraved plaque. The board agreed that the initial concept was acceptable and that they would review and approve the final design and copy at a later date. **After a motion was made and seconded, the board voted 5-0 to approve the use of a plaque as a memorial to Connor Darcey.**

**Addition of Wellesley Scoops to PFTF**

**After a motion was made and seconded, the board voted 5-0 in favor of ratifying the Playing Fields Task Force charter to include Wellesley Youth Field Hockey (Wellesley Scoops).**

**Morses Pond Erosion Study**

Michelle West, project manager for the Morses Pond Erosion Study from Horsley Witten, described the methodology and initial results from the project that combined a desktop analysis of the watershed and stormwater infrastructure with an on-lake survey. Specifically, she outlined 10 locations where erosion issues were deemed as a high priority. Ms. West then described various treatment options for restoration, including toe and slope stabilization, outfall stabilization, trail water bars, stabilized boat launches and mitigation for road runoff. She concluded with an explanation of the next steps which would include a

**New Business/Continuing Business/Liaison Reports (Trails, Wetlands, 3R Working Group, CPC, Playing Fields Task Force, Lighting, Outreach)**

Town Government Study Committee: The board discussed potential amendments to the TGSC recommendations at the upcoming Special Town Meeting. Associate Town Counsel Eric Rustle will provide an updated amendment for the board to review.

Trails: Ms. Gaughan reported a very successful Kids Trails day held on October 18<sup>th</sup> and attended by more than 80 children and their families.

3R Working Group: Ms. McManus reported on a food waste summit where participants learned about an anaerobic food digester, met with Harvest Power and a learned about a mobile food waste generator.

**Director's Report**

Weston Rd. Garden Trees: Mr. Schmitt described the NRC's policy at the Community Gardens where trees and tree planting is prohibited. Currently there are several larger trees that have grown up in some of the Weston Rd. Garden plots. Per NRC policy, trees in parkland under 12" can be removed with a written arborist report. The NRC approved removal of the other trees unless the gardeners wanted them.

Centennial Park Maintenance Schedule: Mr. Schmitt reviewed a request from DPW staff for a revision to the Centennial Meadow and path maintenance plan outlined in the NRC policy. **After a motion was made and seconded, the board voted 5-0 to approve the requested changes outlined as follows:**

- Mow each meadow twice annually. First mowing on or just after August 1<sup>st</sup> (to protect ground-nesting birds). Second mowing mid September (if we were managing just for wildflowers then mowing in June would be a superior time to reduce woody growth).
- The section east of path in Meadow #5 was mowed 3 times in 2015 as a test to manage woody growth. The third mowing seemed unnecessary. We could use this as a test plot by mowing this section twice next year and then just once in August, 2017 to see if we have reduced woody growth.
- Meadow #4 has a large area of Sassafras. I would suggest leaving a section to create a small copse.
- The large section of Blackberry in Meadow #1 should be mowed every two years to allow for fruit set every other year but to keep area from being overtaken by trees.
- We should evaluate every year to determine effectiveness of twice annual mowing schedule.
- Continue mowing paths in June and when necessary.

CPC/FOMP meetings: Mr. Schmitt updated the board on 2 recent meetings held with the friends of Morses Pond to review the Pond Management plan, Erosion study and to create a point of contact with the friends group. He also explained that the CPC had approved the use of administrative finds to fund the Kelly Field tennis area study. Mr. Schmitt is working with CPC representatives to secure a contractor to conduct the study.

Gas Leak Meeting update: Mr. Schmitt described the Gas leak meeting he attended in Quincy, where presenters from UMass, National Grid and the City of Cambridge discussed implications of the new gas legislation and the process for repairing leaks. It was suggested at the meeting that the Dept. responsible for roadwork develop a longer schedule for road improvements that incorporates new natural gas infrastructure, as opposed to fixing individual leaks. Mr. Schmitt will inquire with the DPW to see if such a schedule now exists in Wellesley.

**Items not reasonably anticipated before posting**

Smith Street Trees and Sidewalk

**Review/Approve October 6<sup>th</sup> 2015 Meeting Minutes**

**After a motion was made and seconded, the board voted 5-0 in favor of approving the minutes as written.**

**Review Schedule**

The board scheduled 3 meeting dates to discuss Town Meeting preparation, including:  
10/25 at 7PM; 10/26 at 7PM and 10/31 at 3PM all at the Kingsbury room

The meeting adjourned at 10:40pm

Respectfully submitted,

*Brandon Schmitt*

Brandon Schmitt, Director