

NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
September 17, 2015 7:30 PM
NRC Office, Wellesley Town Hall, Lower Level

Approved 10.6.2015

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

Guests: Kent Warren, Foreman, Wellesley Park and Tree Division; Enku Kebede-Francis; Len Legrand;
Mike Hluchyj; Kathy McMahan; Loraine O'Hanlon; Linda Somerville; Dan Gordon.

Public Voice

No one spoke at Public Voice

Herb Garden Town Hall Land

Ms. Kebede-Francis outlined some population and farming statistics demonstrating the rapid growth in global population and decrease in farming and land in food production. She then proposed a public/private partnership for growing herbs and food on Town land or at Barton Rd. Ms. Gross explained the current availability of community gardens, and the NRC's desire to expand opportunities for residents to grow food. Similarly, the board encouraged Ms. Kebede-Francis to pursue the idea at Barton Rd. given consideration to the resources necessary to realize it. Mr. Schmitt will coordinate communication between her and the Wellesley Housing Authority.

Tree Hearing

- 32 Beechwood Rd 26" White Pine. **After a motion was made and seconded, the board voted 5-0 in favor of keeping the tree on the watch list.**
- 5 Berkshire Rd; 32" Linden: Mr. Warren explained that the tree had been on the watch list for some time and continued to decline. **After a motion was made and seconded, the board voted 5-0 in favor of removing the tree.**
- Central Park @ Grove St; 37" Sugar maple: **After a motion was made and seconded, the board voted 5-0 in favor of removing the tree.**
- 38 Cypress Rd; 15" Norway Maple. Mr. Gordon and Ms. O'Hanlon explained their request to remove a Norway Maple to accommodate a driveway. The O'Hanlons preferred to have their driveway on the Cypress Rd side of the property. Ms. Somerville, a resident on Cypress, raised her concerns about more tree removal along the roadway. Due the invasive nature and fair condition of the tree, the board agreed. **After a motion was made and seconded, the board voted 5-0 in favor of permitting the removal of the tree by the owner after a payment of \$120 per diameter inch, or \$1920 was paid to the NRC into the tree fund.** Mr. Gordon also inquired about a tree at 3 Greenlawn. Mr. Warren agreed to inspect the tree at a later date.
- 31 Garrison Rd; 20" Sugar Maple. **After a motion was made and seconded, the board voted 5-0 in favor of keeping the tree on the watch list.**
- 37 Garrison Rd; 27" Sugar Maple. **After a motion was made and seconded, the board voted 5-0 in favor of keeping the tree on the watch list.**
- Indian Spring Park; 32" Black Birch. Mr. Warren explained that this tree was a very hazardous one and should be removed as soon as possible. **After a motion was made and seconded, the board voted 5-0 in favor of removing the tree.**
- 19 Kipling Rd; 26" Sugar maple. **After a motion was made and seconded, the board voted 5-0 in favor of keeping the tree on the watch list.**
- 1 Lafayette Circle; 16" Red Maple: The developer, Mr. Len Legrand, was here to explain that due to new zoning setbacks, the proposed driveway at the new property would be located directly where the tree was standing. Mr. Warren explained that while the tree was in poor shape, he did not agree with the arborist assessment that the tree was hazardous. Ms. Gross said that the tree was not aesthetically pleasing and suggested that the developer should pay for the replacement of the tree. **After a motion was made and seconded, the board voted 5-0 in**

favor of permitting the removal of the tree by the owner after a payment of \$120 per diameter inch, or \$1920 was paid to the NRC into the tree fund.

- 47 Laurel Ave; 26" Norway Maple: Ms. Kathy McMahon requested that this tree not be removed if possible. **After a motion was made and seconded, the board voted 5-0 in favor of keeping the tree on the watch list.**
- 47 Laurel Ave; 13" Crabapple: Mr. Schmitt noted that this tree was listed incorrectly and should be removed from the hearing list.
- 47 Laurel Ave; 28" Sugar maple: Mr. Warren noted that similar to other Sugar maples in town, this tree was in very poor health and showing signs of fatal decline. **After a motion was made and seconded, the board voted 5-0 in favor of removing the tree.**
- 68 Lincoln Rd; 29" Sugar maple: Mr. Schmitt reported that the NRC had received a couple emails requesting that the tree not be removed. **After a motion was made and seconded, the board voted 5-0 in favor of keeping the tree on the watch list.**
- 11 Poplar Rd; 22" Red oak: **After a motion was made and seconded, the board voted 5-0 in favor of removing the tree.**
- Post Office Park; 20" Sugar Maple: **After a motion was made and seconded, the board voted 5-0 in favor of removing the tree.**
- 20 Summit Rd; 30" White Oak: **After a motion was made and seconded, the board voted 5-0 in favor of keeping the tree on the watch list.**
- 525 Washington St; 35" Sugar Maple: **After a motion was made and seconded, the board voted 5-0 in favor of removing the tree.**
- 756 Washington St; 31" Catalpa. **After a motion was made and seconded, the board voted 5-0 in favor of keeping the tree to allow cuttings.**

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

Trails: Ms. Gaughan asked Mr. Warren about weed harvesting at Longfellow Pond. Ms. Gaughan then asked about the progress on the Centennial park paving project. Mr. Warren was unaware of the status on the paving project. Mr. Schmitt will put in a request from DPW and check on the status on Centennial.

Ms. McManus reported that there was an increase in activity by coyotes at Centennial. Mr. Schmitt has notified Ms. Sue Webb, the Town's animal control officer of the concerns.

Ms. McManus also reported an ongoing problem with trash at Ollie Turner field. Mr. Murphy stated that there would be an upcoming opportunity to relay the concerns about garbage with permitted users of various fields with the Playing Fields Task force.

3R: M. McManus described a food waste event, where they scheduled a food waste movie screening on December 8th. In October, the DPW will be hosting an online discussion with a company specializing in anaerobic digesters. Harvest power, a company who works with Disney will also be there. Ms. McManus also reminded the board about the Plastic Ban event happening Friday September 25th.

CPC: Ms. Gaughan explained that the CPC is very interested in using administrative funds to fund the Kelly field courts study. Mr. Schmitt will attend the CPC meeting on October 14th.

PFTF: Mr. Schmitt reported that a new request for youth field hockey needing additional field space may add pressure to field availability in the near future. Mr. Murphy explained that perhaps a joint effort with Weston would solve the problem.

Morses Pond Gate: Mr. Schmitt outlined discussions he has had with residents in the Turner Road area, Bill Shaughnessy from the Water Department and Mike Pakstis from the DPW. Ms. McManus explained that Mr. Pakstis seemed open to the idea of opening the gates on the weekends during the shoulder seasons.

Gas Leak Legislation: Mr. Schmitt presented a letter drafted by NRC staff for Rep. Peisch and the Board of Selectmen. **After review, the board agreed that the letter should be sent out to the Board of Selectmen and Representative Peisch.**

Director's Report

Encroachment at Lee Field/Hunnewell: Mr. Schmitt reported that there is an apparent encroachment at 470 Washington St. where the resident has parked a trailer and stored tools on what by the assessors map is NRC property. Mr. Schmitt will review the background information and the encroachment committee will follow up.

Contract Status: Mr. Schmitt updated the board on progress with the Morses pond erosion study, including some maps created by the consultant, and inquired about the board's preference for timing of a public meeting. The board agreed that the optimal timing for the meeting would be after an initial day of surveying when there would be some concrete findings

Budget Preparation: Mr. Schmitt informed the board that the budget submission would coming up shortly and asked if there were any additional specific capital requests that the board would like to consider.

Eagle Scout Project @ Centennial: Mr. Schmitt explained that he and DPW staff and Mr. Nackoney from the Trails committee met onsite at Centennial to review the final preparations for the Nature trail at Centennial Park to take place on Saturday 9/19.

Review/Approve September 3rd and September 8th, 2015 Meeting Minutes

The minutes were not reviewed and this item was tabled until the next meeting.

Review Schedule

Due to conflicting meetings, the October 1 NRC meeting was cancelled. Meetings were scheduled for 10/6 and 10/20.

Town Government Study Committee Discussion

The board discussed developments with the Town Government Study Committee recommendations.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 11:15 PM

*A recording of this meeting is available upon request

Respectfully Submitted,

Brandon Schmitt

Brandon Schmitt, Director