

NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION
MEETING AGENDA
January 21st, 2016 7:30 PM
NRC, Wellesley Town Hall, Lower Level

Approved 2.11.2016

Attending: Stephen Murphy, Chair; Lise Olney, Vice Chair; Joan Gaughan; Heidi Gross;
Brandon Schmitt, Director; Mike Hlyuchij, Advisory Committee; Dave Hickey, DPW

Public Voice

No one spoke at Public Voice.

Special Town Meeting Discussion

Mr. Hlyuchij explained that there are 3 articles for the upcoming Special Town Meeting, and that the Board of Selectmen will be bringing the articles forward rather than the Town Government Study Committee, although as of yet, the BoS has not formally voted on the specifics of the articles.

Ms. Olney stated that a fundamental issue that had not been resolved was how money would be allocated, and whether budgets would be controlled by either the various boards or the department heads. There was not a final version of the bylaw language available for the board, Advisory Committee, or the public.

Ms. Gross explained that historically the budget guidelines would be established by the BoS and CFO, and then the board would prepare a budget within those guidelines to present to Advisory. Mr. Murphy added that the director has a fundamental role in developing the budgets, but the board ultimately votes on the budgets and approves and subsequent changes.

Mr. Hluchyj stated that some of the effort of the bylaw was to have in writing some of the existing processes that have evolved over time and are currently in practice, but missing from the current bylaws. He also noted that he was not confident that the budget increase process needed to be specified in the bylaws. Advisory's general position was that they still have the power to meet with every board chair and director to review priorities and actual and projected needs.

Ms. Gaughan explained that she thought the liaison's role was to advocate for the Board in their budget request. Mr. Hluchyj agreed, noting that Advisory liaisons report back to the committee and can help coach the boards in prioritizing their requests.

New Business/Continuing Business/Liaison Reports

Hunnewell Comfort Station Renovation: Mr. Hickey reviewed plans with the board for upgrades to the existing comfort station located at Hunnewell Park. The building does have some issues noticed at annual inspections including roof deterioration, and needed electrical improvements, although none of them are structural. The site improvement has been in the Capital plan for several years and will include a new building and will tie the buildings bathrooms into the town sewer system and remove them from a cesspool. Mr. Hickey explained why compostable toilets might have been problematic with erratic and variable use and maintenance needs. Mr. Hickey hopes that the construction will happen in the summer in conjunction with some of the site preparation for the Track and Field project. **After a motion was made and seconded, the board voted 4-0 in favor of approving the removal and replacement of the structure.**

Plastic Bag Ban: Ms. Olney distributed a draft Town meeting article for the plastic bag ban. She also reported that Ellen Korpi, who is helping with the bag ban, just reached a representative from Roche Bros. The representative from Roche Brothers believes the initiative will end up costing the store millions of dollars per year. However, the bag reduction experience at Whole Foods, Ms. Olney explained, proved to the contrary, with very few complaints and no financial consequences. The 3R working group has been working with vendors, and has heard very few objections; there has been broad support for the initiative. The group is

scheduled to meet with Maura O'Brien, head of the local chamber of commerce, and has scheduled meetings with Garden Clubs, PTO groups, and the Green Collaborative. The group will be presenting to Advisory on February 3rd, and the NRC will host a public hearing on February 11th.

The board then discussed specific details of the regulations, including:

- The square footage requirements (and notifying all applicable businesses, how the square footage is calculated, etc).
- Chain establishment requirements: The bylaw would not affect the small single location stores, only those larger stores with more than one location.
- Biodegradable bags: This issue was still unresolved, but given the uncertainty around the true biodegradability of the bags, it was not clear that they would be included at this time.

Mr. Murphy asked about pricing for various bags and how they would impact the retailers.

Ms. Olney will send the group's presentation to Mr. Hluchyj in advance of their meeting with Advisory.

Tree Removal at 159 Benvenue: Mr. Schmitt reviewed a letter that was submitted to the Planning board regarding an illegal tree removal on the Scenic road and public right of way at 159 Benvenue ST. The board agreed to fine the applicant under MGL chapter 87, section 6. **After a motion was made and seconded, the board voted 3-0-1 to fine the applicant 500\$ for removal of a public shade tree.**

Commissioners Report

Ms. Gaughan reported that she had met with the High School leadership group and 2 students were interested in putting in mileage markers along popular running paths. The board agreed that this was a good idea.

Wellesley Country Club: Ms. Olney explained that the proposed 6-hole golf course is of concern to many residents, and the attention around the proposal would make it a good opportunity to host an event with Chip Osbourne to discuss the reduction of private pesticide use. Mr. Schmitt agreed to pursue this opportunity.

Director's Report

- Contract Updates – IPM, Morses Pond, Comprehensive Pond Mgt, Kelly Field. Mr. Schmitt reported that he had received and paid an invoice for soil samples taken for the IPM update. The board could expect a summary of the initial findings and scope of work shortly. Mr. Schmitt also explained that he would be speaking with the consultants from Horsley Witten regarding the Kelly tennis court upgrades in the upcoming week, and that they could anticipate having existing conditions and site constraint mapped out soon.
- Rezoning Initiative: Mr. Schmitt explained that he will be meeting with Town Counsel and the Planning staff to finalize the rezoning issues.
- Staffing and Appointments: Mr. Schmitt reported that Mr. Glick had resigned from the Wetlands Protection Committee (WPC) and that they had the option to appoint Mr. Pete Jones, currently an associate member of the WPC. **After a motion was made and seconded, the board voted 4-0 to appoint Pete Jones to the WPC to complete Mr. Glick's term.** The board also discussed the potential for an NRC member to be a voting member of the WPC, but concluded that at this time, the liaison relationship would suffice with NRC members rotating to attend the meetings. Mr. Schmitt also reported that he, Ms. Helinek, WPC members Richard Howell and Pete Jones had sat in on interviews for the new Wetlands scribe. References for the candidates would be contacted and a final selection would be happening soon.
- Track and Field Project: Mr. Schmitt reported that the field project was progressing and the project team hoped to post a request for proposals by February 10th, with submittals due by the 24th. Gale Associates will then review and recommend a contractor.
- Sunlife Conservation Restriction: Mr. Schmitt reviewed A field Inspection conducted by Ms. Gaughan and Ms. McManus at the Sun Life Conservation restriction at Dearborn and McLean streets. The board then signed the Municipal Certification, which would be forwarded with the application to the state.

Other items not reasonably anticipated prior to posting

- Tree at Warren Park: Mr. Schmitt relayed a letter he received from the DPW regarding a public shade tree removal at Warren Park.

The board also discussed the issue raised at the Public Hearing about for-profit use of the public parks. Mr. Schmitt will collect some data from the recreation department about use of the fields for private organizations.

Review/Approve NRC December 15, January 7, 2015 Meeting Minutes

After a motion was made and seconded, the board voted 4-0 in favor of approving the minutes as amended.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 10:05 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Brandon Schmitt

Brandon Schmitt
Director, Wellesley Natural Resources Commission