

TOWN OF WELLESLEY



MASSACHUSETTS

**NATURAL RESOURCES  
COMMISSION RETREAT AGENDA**

**August 8<sup>th</sup>, 2023 8 AM**

**Continued from 7/8/2023**

**Kingsbury Room Wellesley Police Department, 485 Washington Street**

**Notes below**

**8:00 Welcome and Meeting Guidelines**

**8:05 Public Speak**

**8:10 Review FY24 Annual Goals**

**9:55 Approve Minutes**

**10:00 Adjourn**

**MEETING PARTICIPATION PROTOCOL:**

Those seeking to participate during Public Speak or on any other Agenda Item should email NRC Director Brandon Schmitt at [bschmitt@wellesleyma.gov](mailto:bschmitt@wellesleyma.gov) by **4PM MONDAY August 7th** to receive a place in the queue. Comments will be limited to three (3) minutes. A total of 15 minutes will be allocated for public comment, at which time residents who did not get to speak will be invited to send comments via email or comment at the next NRC meeting. Advance written comments are welcome, and can be submitted directly to the NRC Commissioners by emailing [nrcmembers@wellesleyma.gov](mailto:nrcmembers@wellesleyma.gov)

**1. Review Mission/Long-Term Goals – These are the long-term goals articulated by a previous board**

- Protect existing shade trees and increase the Town’s tree canopy
- Improve Management/Stewardship of Town Forest
- Work to protect drinking Water
- Protect the biodiversity of the town
- Improve the functioning of the NRC within Town Government
- Practice Climate Resilience and Preparedness
- Encourage Community Engagement
- Decrease the impact of exterior lighting on the natural environment in the town
- Protect air quality
- Reduce noise pollution
- Reduce litter and plastic waste

Proposed 2024 Objectives – these are potential objectives for the year, based on proposed activities

**Protect and Enhance Wellesley’s Natural Resources to enhance their climate and natural resource benefits (NRC contribution to Town of Wellesley’s Climate Action Plan) by expanding tree canopy**

- Explore Gas-Powered Leaf Blower Regulations
- Finalize and disseminate Tree canopy assessment
- Develop Proposal for Private Tree Planting Initiative via Tree Bank Funds
- Assess options for developing a town nursery
- Encourage public and private adoption of sustainable land use practices (Simons Park, electrification)

**Continue to improve the functioning of the NRC by addressing process and staffing issues**

- Evaluate Wetlands Administrator Position Classification
- Refine Process for Tree Hearings

**Improve stewardship and management of active and passive recreation space by improving use policies and planning/budgeting**

- Develop Long-Term Active Recreation Capital Improvement Plan
- Complete Sound Policy
- Complete Night use Policy for Hunnewell Track and Field
- Develop temporary plan for pickleball
- Promote Zero Waste Policy for active and passive recreation
- Identify storage options for athletic fields

**Protect Conservation and Open Space by identifying short- and long-term conservation priorities**

**Work to protect biodiversity, health and use of Town’s ponds**

- Provide ongoing support to Morses Pond for invasives removal and erosion control
- Prepare for dredging at Duck and Reeds

**Develop Land Conservation Plan**

- Finalize data verification
- Conduct public outreach process

- Write 1<sup>st</sup> draft of plan

### **Re-implement Encroachment Policy**

- Develop on-going process to search for and mitigate encroachments