



NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION MEETING
MINUTES

January 2nd, 2020, 7:00 PM Kingsbury
Room, Wellesley Police Station

Present: Katie Griffith, Chair; Raina McManus, Vice Chair; Regina LaRocque;
Laura Robert; Nancy Braun; Brandon Schmitt, Director

Guests: John Brown and Courtney Albin, Wellesley High School Athletics, Laurance
Stuntz, Recreation Commission; Wayne Everett, Sandy Seifert

Public Speak

No one spoke on a non-agenda item.

New and Continuing Business/Liaison Reports

▪ **Playing Fields Lighting:** The board discussed lighting at Hunnewell Fields, and discussed comparable towns, funding, the sound policy, existing and new lightings and a usage schedule. The board also made final edits on a press release and discussed how the process will move forward.

Mr. Brown and Ms. Albin outlined a possible schedule using lights, including practices until 5:30-6:30 during the late fall and possibly early spring depending on day-light savings time. Mr. Brown noted that fields at Wellesley College are currently not available. Ms. Albin explained that the fields are scheduled to ensure equity between men's and women's sports. Mr. Brown confirmed that the Dover-Sherborn policy allowed only 28 night activities per year. Mr. Brown also outlined the phasing of the upgrades at the field and cited the lack of restrooms and a team room as a significant problem. He also noted the lack of a press box. The board also discussed ongoing efforts to keep the site clean during and after the games. Ms. McManus stated that the Chair of the Community Preservation Committee has contacted the State Community Preservation representative as well as Town Counsel and is waiting to learn whether sports field lighting is an allowable use of Community Preservation Act funds, for both new and existing lights. According to the State's database of projects, two towns were identified as using CPA funds to install new lights. She will follow up with the CPC Chair.

The board also discussed the possible use of the Green Community grant funds. Finally, the board reviewed possible sequencing for the proposal and how it fits into the other projects being pursued at the field.

- **Climate Emergency:** Ms. LaRocque reviewed a report from the Lansett Countdown which monitors the effects of climate change over time across 41 indicators, and was created by a multi-disciplinary team of doctors and scientists. She also suggested ways to convey the information in the report, including the use of art.
- **Outreach/Education:** Ms. LaRocque will be doing outreach on the bio-blitz and city nature challenge.
- **Tree Planting/Preservation:** Mr. Schmitt explained that the School Committee would be discussing the fate of the Hunnewell oak on January 7, 2020 after receipt of the Arborist report regarding the feasibility of relocating the tree.

- **Grow Green Wellesley:** This item was not discussed.
- **3R Working Group:** This item was not discussed.
- **Trails Committee:** This item was not discussed.
- **Current Town Projects:** This item was not discussed.

Director's Report

- **Annual Town Meeting Warrant Articles: Draft motion language has been submitted for the changes to the Tree Bylaw, Renaming of the Multi-purpose field, and re-appropriation of funds.**
- **CPC requests:** Mr. Schmitt reported that the DPW and Recreation Department were in support of the Perrin Park Basketball court and Warren Park Sensory Equipment CPC requests, which also appeared to be within budget.
- **Bring Your Own Bag Month:** The board of Selectmen will be discussing the BYOBag resolution at their January 6 meeting.
- **Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) Program:** The board discussed the draft summary of findings and how best to disseminate the report and advocate for the action steps.
- **NRC contract/Project Updates: Squirrel Road Maintenance:** The board discussed needed maintenance to Squirrel Road, and agreed to add the project to a future capital request.
- **Permits, if any:** This item was not discussed.

Approve Minutes/Schedule future meetings

After a motion was made and seconded, the board voted unanimously to approve the 12/5/2019 and 12/19/2019 minutes as amended.

Urgent items not anticipated prior to 48 hours of meeting or Previous items in Progress

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:36PM

List of documents discussed/referred to at meeting:

- Draft MVP Summary of Findings
- Lancet Commission Report
- Draft 12/5/2019 and 12/19/2019 meeting minutes
- Draft Press Release
- Pages from Tree Risk Assessment