



NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION MINUTES

January 5, 2023, 7 PM

Approved 1/19/2023

Great Hall Wellesley Town Hall

525 Washington Street, Wellesley MA

Present: Bea Bezmalinovic, Vice-Chair; Lisa Collins, Secretary; Laura Robert and Michael D’Ortenzio; Brandon Schmitt, NRC Director

Welcome and Meeting Guidelines

The meeting was called to order at 7:10PM. Ms. Collins announced the meeting was being recorded and broadcast via Wellesley Media.

Public Speak (non-agenda item): There was no public comment

Director’s Report

Harvester and Dredging Update: Mr. Schmitt updated the board on the new Harvester and proposed Dredging of Reeds and Duck Ponds. Mr. Schmitt will confirm the harvesting schedule and will advertise in a spring newsletter.

Lawn Conversion: Mr. Schmitt reviewed the Lawn Conversion Project initial designs and will confirm with the Designer on alternate designs, and with the Hunnewell school Administration on the school use of the property.

15 Waterway: There was no update

Wetlands Coffee Hour: Mr. Schmitt shared the plan to have three sessions with the Wetlands Administrator Julie Meyer, in the NRC’s attempt to educate the residents on the bylaws. The three sessions are on – Jan. 24, Jan. 31 and Feb. 14 from 9 a.m. - 11 a.m. (in the office or zoom).

New and Continuing Business

Wetlands Bylaw Revisions: Mr. Schmitt reviewed the proposed language for the revisions to the Wetland Bylaw (Article 44, and the General Bylaws 52).

Watertown Dam Letter: The board discussed a proposed letter to the DCR in support of a proposal to remove the Watertown Dam. Mr. Schmitt will revise the letter and ensure that other boards do not object.

Policy Review: Section 1: Ms. Bezmalinovic suggested reviewing the policy at the next meeting.

Liaison Reports

Ms. Robert said Trails will meet on Jan. 17. She did share that Wetlands will conduct its retreat on Thursday, Jan. 12. The WPC is expected to discuss Climate Resilience in Wetlands Policies and Bylaws.

Ms. Bezmalinovic mentioned that the Playing Fields Task Force will meet on Friday, Jan. 13th. The expectation is for Weston & Sampson to have data to present to PFTF for final review and then come to the NRC at the next meeting.

Climate Emergency

Ms. Robert was happy to see that the Boston Globe did an [article](https://www.bostonglobe.com/2022/12/29/science/five-climate-new-years-resolutions-make-2023/) about the New Year’s Climate Resolutions.

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Mr. D’Ortenzio shared numbers he found in an [article](https://commonwealthmagazine.org/energy/power-grid-put-under-stress-over-christmas-holiday/) in Commonwealth Magazine. The article was about the demand on the power grid in New England over the holiday.

<https://commonwealthmagazine.org/energy/power-grid-put-under-stress-over-christmas-holiday/>

Approve Minutes

After a motion was made and seconded, the board was polled and voted 4-0 to approve the December 15 minutes as amended. Bezmalinovic-Yea, Robert-Yea, Collins-Yea, D’Ortenzio-Yea

Urgent Items Not Anticipated Prior to 48-hours of Posting

Mr. Schmitt reported the Morses Pond erosion project, thanks to the DPW, we have plans to go out to bids with returns to come in late February. There is a budget that we think will cover but if the bids were to come back higher, we would have to go to CPC. Mr. Schmitt will be attending the CPC meeting to present them with this information.

Mr. Schmitt updated the NRC on the move with Town Hall. The servers have been moved and the Town employees will be moving soon. The NRC upcoming meetings may have to move upon Town Closing.

Schedule meetings

Mr. Schmitt updated the NRC on the move with Town Hall. The servers have been moved and the Town employees will be moving soon. The NRC upcoming meetings may have to move upon Town Closing.

Adjourn

After a motion was made and seconded, the board was polled and voted 4-0 to adjourn the meeting at 7:46 PM. Bezmalinovic-Yea, Robert-Yea, Collins-Yea, D’Ortenzio-Yea

Materials Referenced

Simons Park Lawn Conversion Designs

Proposed Wetlands Bylaw Revisions

Watertown Dam Letter

Draft Minutes (December 15, 2022)

Respectfully Submitted,

Lisa Collins, Secretary

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