



**NATURAL RESOURCES  
COMMISSION REMOTE ONLINE**

Meeting Minutes

**JANUARY 20, 2022 – 6:30 P.M.**

**Approved 2-17-2022**

**Present:** Raina McManus, Chair; Laura Robert, Vice-Chair; Allison Burson, Bea Bezmalinovic, Secretary; Jay McHale; Brandon Schmitt, Director

**Guests:** No guests were present.

**Public Speak on non-Agenda items**

No one spoke on a non-agenda item.

**Action/Discussion Items**

- **Hunnewell Track and Field Project Discussion** – Chair Raina McManus introduced the items that will be discussed – Bathrooms, Team Room and Field Lighting – as it pertains to the NRC policy and criteria. She then had Brandon Schmitt, the NRC Director, post the policy and explain it and summarize it so everyone would be on the same page. Vice Chair Laura Robert was called on to start the discussion on the impact on Natural Resources. Robert mentioned goal is to preserve the value we have and pursue something new that adds value. She presented a Fall High School Schedule calendar which would mean 25% of the fall season would be disturbed. Robert suggested decreasing the number of night events. Jay McHale shared the report the schools submitted on the environmental impact to the lights. He spoke about the analysis by Epsilon and the results were no negligible impact on the wetlands. Allison Burson spoke about the Greenhouse gas and the impact on nocturnal animals crossing the road and the traffic impacts of transportation changes. Bea Bezmalinovic spoke about the lighting plan, which was the fact they planned to bring in the best lighting possible. Agreed with Burson on the traffic pattern you can't predict. Concerns about the impact on the wetlands and about using this issue as a chance to educate and raise more support on environmental issues. McManus brought about the lighting and sound how it would affect the trees and vegetation. Read a paragraph from a study on outdoor lighting. She proceeded to go through her opinion on the Natural Resource bullet points. Robert read from the Epsilon Report, saying there is not conflicting reports. Suggest we should care about the impact on the environment and should not put a number it. And the discussion returned back to the number of night games being played in the fall and spring. Question arose about temporary lighting and would it be worse than the new technology of lights. Other discussion points included Impact on Land User Groups as well as Impact on the Neighborhood. Impact on Land User Groups – McManus pointed out people use it for quiet walks but that will disappear. Robert mentioned the community would enjoy night games. McHale brought up the slippery slope with non-school teams wanting to use the field. Impact on the Neighborhood – Discussion included the increase in traffic, noise and pedestrian safety as well as the increased impact on the area. McHale brought up the fact that traffic, noise and lighting are an issue now when there is a game. Burson spoke about that traffic and pedestrian safety has not been addressed. Shuttles were suggested as a resolve for pedestrian and overall traffic. The members discussed about cost as it pertains to the impact on the NRC and Town budget as well as the private fundraising opportunities. According to McHale the additional utility cost would be \$4,000 a year which claims would be covered by the schools. Temporary Change and the Ability to Restore and Rehabilitate to the Original Condition – The topic of bringing back temporary lights with the new technology for community events (football, soccer etc.) – or a week of night games and it goes

away (meaning the lights) was presented by McManus, due to the push back from the neighborhood and the process. Suggested giving the graduating seniors a chance to play under the lights with a temporary light, as an event for the community. Possible option as the committee reviews the request for the permanent lights.

- Review – issues included number of games (30 or less, practice nights included)
- Traffic issues
- Conditional language
- Make sure there are bathrooms before we host night events

NRC Director Brandon Schmitt ended the review and explained the process and what the NRC commission is voting on and the next steps.

### **Liaison Reports:**

**Climate Emergency:** Raina McManus referenced a Boston Globe article on the new coverage the paper will give to [Climate Change](#) (1.20.22).

**CPC:** They voted to approve \$20,000 for the lawn conversion program. They are reviewing the Field Optimization proposal and will vote on that Feb. 11. CPC is deciding on what they will fund in the retrofit Tennis and the Diane Warren Field. That project will be voted on Feb. 11 as well.

**Mobility:** A. Burson reported on a Mobility Committee initiative to develop a safe route to school plan. The project included signage as well as improved walking routes and surfaces for kids walking to school.

### **Director's Report:**

- Brandon Schmitt talked about the field study with CPC. A presentation will be made the first week of February. He also informed the commission he will be approving a permit for a Plunge for Elodie 2022 on March 27.
- He also informed the commission that the next meeting there is a need to revisit the Alcohol License and add a Tree Hearing. Schmitt requested the commission to send questions concerning the Alcohol License issue for the Feb. 3 meeting.
- The DPW will also be in the next meeting to talk about the storm water utility.

### **Approve Minutes:**

*The minutes for 12/14/2021 meeting and the Jan. 6, 2022 minutes will be reviewed in the Feb. 3 meeting.*

**Schedule Future Meetings:** The Board will meet again on Feb. 3, 2020.

**Urgent Items Not Anticipated Prior to 48-hours of Posting:** N/A

### **Adjourn:**

The meeting adjourned at 9:58 PM.

*Respectfully submitted,  
Stephanie Tunnera, NRC Clerk*