



NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION REMOTE ONLINE
MEETING MINUTES

February 17, 2022 - 6:30 PM

Approved 4/7/2022

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

Guests: NA

Members of the Public: Jeanne Mayell, Martha Collins, Jaden Crawford, Judith Barr, Wayne Everett, Joe Okun, Marlene Allen, Lara Crawford, Cliff Canady, Chris Spagnuolo, Julia Miwa, Molly Reza, Molly Bruni, Marc Schectman, Vahiedah Nilforoshan, Barbara McMahan, Laurance Stuntz, Andrew Boyle.

Public Speak: No one spoke on non-agenda items.

Action/Discussion Items:

- **Climate Emergency** – Raina McManus reported on a Globe Article that ran on Tuesday, Feb. 15, 2022. The article talked about seas levels in the Northeast. Link: <https://tinyurl.com/2p87cs5t>
- **Public Hearing: Hunnewell Track and Field Lighting Proposal** – Raina McManus opened this portion of the meeting by reading a statement about the confusion surrounding the bathrooms and team rooms at the Hunnewell facility. Ms. McManus moved the meeting forward by reviewing the schedule of dates the NRC Committee has devoted to the discussion surrounding the Hunnewell Track and Field Lighting Proposal. She proposed that the vote will be taken on Thursday, March 3 at the NRC's next meeting. (after the public hearing, commissioners discussed this further, see and decided to wait until March 17th for more discussion and to allow for discussion of other pressing business) McManus then asked NRC Director Brandon Schmitt to show the Nights of Lights slide from the School Committee. Schmitt read the proposal from current school proposal. McManus then asked him to post the NRC's criteria for Land Use Change. Schmitt posted the document and read the document for those not able to read the criteria. McManus then went through the rules on who will speak and if they don't get to everyone those people will be allowed to speak on March 3.
 - Speaker No. 1 – Jeanne Mayell asked to vote down the proposal.
 - Speaker No. 2 – Martha Collins opened up by saying she spoke as a resident and not as a member of any town committee. She went through the reason to vote no on each criteria the NRC will use when they vote.
 - Speaker No. 3 – Jaden Crawford suggests to the board to vote no on this proposal, due to the time the NRC has spent on the subject and a number of other reasons that have been mentioned by the first two speakers.
 - Speaker No. 4 – Judith Barr is hoping the NRC votes no on the proposal pointing to the factor **Epsilon** research on the environment was incorrect. Ms. Barr then questioned the depth of the survey and question why the information was not shared until she obtained a copy and shared it. She then reviewed a number of items she questions in the survey. She would like an alternative proposal.

- Speaker No. 5 – Wayne Everett resides at 29 Rice Street and suggests this is the desire to play night football games. He reviewed the past meetings from the Playing Field Task meetings. He talks about the fact that there will be lights on more than the number suggested. He asks the committee to vote no on the proposal.
- Speaker No. 6 – Jo Okun spoke about the noise and spoke with a neighbor a mile away and can hear the noise on a game day. Claims the choice should be clear that Hunnewell Track and Field is a protected land under Article 97 of the Mass. Constitution. A yes vote would ignore the NRC's own policy and ask the committee to vote no.
- Speaker No. 7 – Marlene Allen resides at 29 Rice Street. She talked about the committee by the NRC and is against the lights, poles, noise at Hunnewell Track and Field.
- Speaker No. 8 – Lara Crawford lives on 15 Rice Street and urged the committee to vote no. She referenced photos she sent to the committee on Feb. 2 on her usual walk.
- Speaker No. 9 – Cliff Canaday lives at 55 Smith Street and see no need for lights. He sees not benefit to the community and points to the cost as well. He urged the NRC to vote no.
- Speaker No. 10 – Chris Spagnuolo is a neighbor of the high school and is in favor of the lights at Hunnewell.
- Speaker No. 11 – Julia Miwa is a resident of Wellesley since 1994. She is urging the NRC to vote yes on the current proposal.
- Speaker No. 12 – Molly Reza are a 22-year Wellesley resident and has a sophomore at the high school. Talked about her family experience after a night game in Needham. Urging change and thinks lights will be an improvement to the town and asks for an approval the proposal.
- Speaker No. 13 – Molly Bruni a resident and Wellesley High School graduate. Talks about her experience when she was in high school and went to a night game in Framingham. Would like the NRC to approve the current proposal for the community.
- Speaker No. 14 – Marc Schectman talked about the amount of lights and it seems to always fall on his neighborhood. He is asking the NRC to stop the push for more lights.
- Speaker No. 15 – Erin Hester lives on Twitchell Street a few blocks away and is actually speaking for a neighbor who is an abutter of the field. She read a letter from her neighbor who lives on Smith Street. Both her and her neighbor urges the NRC to vote no.
- Speaker No. 16 – Vahiedah Nilforoshan who lives on Twitchell is in opposition to the lighting of the field. Claims Wellesley has a high athletic participation and is known for their excellence on and off the fields. She continued by saying there is no world that exists where having lights is a necessity for having a successful athletic program. Spoke about the negative effect it will have on the environment and the neighborhood.
- Speakers No. 17 – Barbara McMahon is speaking as a resident after being involved in town government in Wellesley for over 30 years. There has always been support for lights on the field knowing the neighbors would not agree. Talked about the town and how it responds and respects the neighbors in Wellesley. Urges the NRC to reject the current proposal and work out a plan to rent lights and compromise we can all agree to.
- Speaker No. 18 – Andrew Boyle talks about social and emotional health of the children in the town of Wellesley. Suggests the need for lights is to finish day games that never finish due to nightfall. Claims the lights are to finish day close to night time activities.
- Josephine Chen correction of the number of nights and hours of how long the lights will be used. Asked for clarity on the hours and nights expected the lights to be used.

- Committee member Jay McHale said that the school is asking for up to 100 hours of light use.
 - Julia Miwa wanted to talk about the survey and number of neighbors want lights on the field. Claims there is no willingness from the neighbors to compromise.
 - Martha Collins the neighbors submitted a counter proposal.
 - Mr. Crawford encouraged the kids to speak out. He points out that those who signed the petition are afraid to speak publically to protect their own children.
- Raina McManus closed the public comment section of the meeting. If more people want to speak on the subject they will get the chance at the next hearing on March 3.
 - Discussion continued between the committee members. First they considered March 3rd as the next public speak and vote date but the board agreed to defer a vote until a future meeting, possibly Thursday, March 17.

Director's Report:

- Mr. Schmitt congratulated the **Climate Action Committee** on the release of the Climate Action plan this week.
- **Lawn Conversion Project:** Meeting with final two proposals for the project. Looking for a long range timeline and site decisions to make on this project.
- **Field Utilization Study:** trying to refine the scope and see how best to move forward with this project.
- **Lighting Retro-Fit:** CPC voted to fund this project. Public Works wrote the specifications for the project. Will have that out to bid in the next few weeks.
- **Next meeting Public Works** may address the committee looking at Article 31 – private use of public spaces.
- **Sustainable Wellesley** help cross promote an event they will hold on March 31 – a book group discussion –Grow Now – in line with the initiatives we are working on. Event is on March 31 at 7 p.m.

Approve Minutes:

A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes for the meetings on January 6, January 20, and February 3, 2022 as edited. The motion was approved by a 4-0 vote.

Schedule Future Meetings:

Thursday, March 3; Thursday, March 17

Urgent Items Not Anticipated Prior to 48-hours of Posting:

N/A

Adjourn: The meeting was adjourned at 9:31 PM.