



NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION

Raina McManus, Chair
 Laura Robert, Vice Chair
 Allison Burson
 Jay McHale
 Bea Bezmalinovic

Brandon Schmitt, Director
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REMOTE ONLINE MEETING
 MINUTES

April 14, 2021, 7 PM

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

Guests:

Public Speak: No one was present for public speak.

Action/Discussion Items:

- **Donation Approval: Vote on Bench at Simons Park: Elaine Schicitiano** A bench was proposed by the Library Association to honor a 40 year staff member of the library, Elaine Schicitiano, at Simons Park overlooking the library. *After a motion was made and seconded, the board voted 5-0 to accept the gift of the bench at Simons Park in honor of Elaine Schicitiano.*
- **Approve Aqueduct Bathroom Specifications** The old bathroom was demolished last week. The contractor is in place to do site preparation work. The specifications were verified by the board.
- **Review and Possible Vote on Permit Requests:**
 - Natural Gas Pipeline License in Town Forest: Enbridge/Algonquin** Enbridge/Algonquin has a natural gas distribution line that feeds various utilities within an existing easement in the Town Forest. Issues were found during inspections of the pipe and they are asking to perform maintenance on it. Access to the site through private property while storing project materials on Town property seems to be what the proposal will be; it is still being drafted. Additional information will be provided hopefully for the next meeting. The Board is interested in hearing more regarding the long-term existence for this pipeline (and the sensitive area around it) and how it will impact the town and abutters.
- **Climate Emergency** Ms. Burson shared information about the state and its drought status. It is a good time to order rain barrels; they will be available for sale until April 19th. It is important to be conscious about lawn watering and any leaks in pipes as it is only spring and the state is already experiencing drought conditions.
- **Pollinator Habitat Project: Pollinate Wellesley** Ms. Bezmalinovic shared the Wellesley Conservation Land Trust upcoming speaker series on native gardening that are coming up on 4/29, 5/6, 5/13 all at 7PM. The first ever pollinator plant sale has been completed; 50 pollinator kits were sold. The Pedal to Petals self-guided bike tour is still being worked on. The NRC staff presented their proposal for their pollinator corridor project. Visit www.WellesleyMA.Gov/NRC for more information on Pollinate Wellesley events.

Liaison Reports:

Trails: Ms. Robert reported that the Committee is looking at their 5-year plan and are reviewing projects that are there. The Committee plans on holding a site visit to Centennial Park to review potential mitigation plans. The Wellesley Trails Committee also participated in the Natick Trails Summit. April 25th the Committee will be redoing the trail at the North 40.

Mobility: There is a public meeting tomorrow at 7PM for giving/receiving feedback.

Playing Fields Task Force: There was a meeting last Friday discussing field prioritization and short-term solutions. Schedules for spring sports are causing high-use volumes at the fields and potential conflicts.

Director's Report:

- **Project Updates** Mr. Schmitt updated on the Charles River Watershed Climate Compact and a survey which they have available for people living in the watershed to fill out. Finding solutions that work well for each community will be the next steps.
-Fuller Brook Fish Passage Improving fish passage at Fuller Brook Park has been looked at for a while. Fish have been observed struggling to get up part of the stream. The Community Preservation Committee has previously approved funding to do something in this area. A fish biologist came in and looked at the area of concern and recommended building a weir-wall out of sandbags, which allows the water level to be raised 6"-8" and provide resting areas for tired fish. There are concerns from the Engineering Department and there will need to be Wetlands Protection Committee approval. A Request for Determination of Applicability has been submitted to the Wetlands Protection Committee for this project.
- **Open Space and Recreation Plan** The survey questions and presentation will need feedback before being sent out to the public. From the survey data we collect we will develop action steps and present them at a public forum. The current plan expires in late April. The goal is to get the survey out in May.

Approve Minutes:

After a motion was made and seconded, the Board approved the meeting minutes for 4/1/2021 with a 5-0 vote.

Schedule Future Meetings:

New meetings were scheduled for Thursdays 8/5, 8/19, 9/2, 9/16, 10/7, 10/21, 11/4, 11/18, 12/2, 12/16

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

N/A

Adjourn:

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 PM.

*Respectfully submitted,
Leah Wallner, NRC Clerk*