



**NATURAL RESOURCES  
COMMISSION**

**MEETING MINUTES**

**May 4, 2023 7 PM**

Warren Building Room 008  
90 Washington Street

**Approved 6/1/2023**

**Present:** Jay McHale, Chair; Bea Bezmalinovic, Vice-Chair; Lisa Collins, Secretary; Laura Robert; Michael D'Ortenzio; Brandon Schmitt, NRC Director

**Guests:** Wellesley High School Students – Evolution Program; Linda Chow

**Welcome and Meeting Guidelines**

Mr. McHale convened the meeting about 7:15 PM and explained that the meeting was being recorded by Michael D'Ortenzio on his personal phone.

**Public Speak (non-agenda item)**

- Wellesley Students from the Evolution Program spoke on their environmental studies.
- Jo Okun – 15 Cottonwood Road – asked to form a Task Group surrounding the Hunnewell Track & Field Light issues. Asked that the Wetlands Protection Committee be allowed to do their job without outside influences.
- J. McHale explained that only audio was recorded in the first 15 minutes of this meeting because of technical difficulties and the remainder of the meeting will be audio as well as visual recordings via Wellesley Media. He then asked Mr. Schmitt for the Director's Report.

**Director's Report**

- Permit Request for Color War for Senior Day: May 23, 2023, 12-3 p.m. with staff present for the event. **After a motion was made and seconded, the Commission voted to approve the Color War for Senior Day Permit – Vote approve 5-0 - McHale-Yea, Bezmalinovic-Yea, Robert-Yea, Collins-Yea, D'Ortenzio, Yea**
- **Tree Canopy Report from PlanITGeo** – Mr. Schmitt shared analysis with the NRC. Wellesley has 57% Tree Canopy, 17% planting area and 28% impervious surface. The objective is to use the analysis to help point the Town to the areas where trees can be planted to maintain and grow the tree canopy.
  - The Tree Canopy analysis has been shared with other departments – Planning, Climate Action Committee and DPW – and asked for comments and questions that he send back to PlanITGeo. He is targeting a final report by the end of the month.
- **Other Projects:** Mr. Schmitt acknowledged the work from a Civics Class at the middle school which helped fill the sand bags for the Simons Park Project. Another group helped with removing invasive species near Duck Pond.
- **Harvester Update:** Mr. Schmitt said the harvester is being painted and some fabrication work completed. Expectations is for a late June or July arrival.

- **Erosion Project at Turner Road:** This project is expected to start soon. They did take down some Norway Maples to make some room and DPW will complete that soon.
- **Open Space:** Mr. Schmitt shared that he is working with Mr. D’Ortenzio on the open space project.
- Mr. Schmitt sent an email to the NRC Commission to sponsor a bill for pesticide reduction. The hearing is scheduled on Wed. March 10 at the State House. Two students spoke in 2019 and are interested in returning to ask the legislature about updates.

### Liaison Reports

- Playing Fields Task Force – Ms. Bezmalinovic will meet next Friday (May 12).
- Trails – Ms. Robert said Trails had their first spring walk and the middle meadow trail project in Centennial is scheduled for Sunday
- Wetlands – Ms. Robert said the WPC got the same presentation that the NRC received from the School Committee.
- Land Trust – The WCLT is negotiating with land owners in Town on two potential Conservation Restrictions. Mr. D’Ortenzio also thanked Mr. Schmitt for all the work he is doing with the data collection and hopes for a report in the next two months.

### Climate Emergency

NA

### Approve Minutes

- **After a motion was made and seconded, the Commission voted to approve the minutes for 4/6/2023. The vote was approved 5-0 - *McHale-Yea, Bezmalinovic-Yea, Robert-Yea, Collins-Yea, D’Ortenzio, Yea***

### New and Continuing Business

- **Letter to the WPC** – School Committee with Linda Chow – the NRC reviewed a report that Mr. McHale and Ms. Chow worked on to bring forward to the Wetlands Committee in response to the SC request from 4/20. Clarification and discussion among the Commission was as follows:  
Town requests for one-off use of the field may not exceed one request.
- Limiting announcements (excluding safety announcements): Ms. Robert asked if we could cut down the number of announcements during an event. There was agreement in general with a concern on enforcement, Title IX and placing limits on established events such as graduation. The issue will be rolled into the policy work on amplified sound.
- Minor modifications were made to language in items #1-5.
- Item #6 refers to the requirement for WPC review when additional lighting request are made beyond the existing proposal above 20% increase. Ms. Robert requested removing this from the letter and putting it on an NRC agenda.
- After discussion, the wording was changed in item #6 to requests approved by the NRC will result in no more than 100 hours of lighting use in a year. If actual usage of the approved

parameters results is 20% or more than established usage, the NRC will review the usage parameters and either reverse these parameters or submit a Request of Applicability to the WPC.

- **John Bezanson Trust Gift Acceptance:** Mr. Schmitt shared the document that the John Bezanson donated \$40,000 for the preservation for Bezanson Pond.  
**After a motion was made and seconded, the Commission voted to approve acceptance of the gift from the John Bezanson Trust Fund as presented. The vote was approved 5-0 - McHale-Yea, Bezmalinovic-Yea, Robert-Yea, Collins-Yea, D’Ortenzio-Yea**
- **Code of Conduct** – Mr. Schmitt shared that the Select Commission has asked that everyone on the Commission sign the document. Mr. McHale said the NRC will put this in their policies and approve it.

**After a motion was made and seconded, the NRC voted to approve the Code of Conduct. The vote was approved 5-0 - McHale-Yea, Bezmalinovic-Yea, Robert-Yea, Collins-Yea, D’Ortenzio-Yea**

- **Field Storage** Ms. Bezmalinovic shared information regarding Field Storage for local teams. Discussion continued on addressing storage needs and setting a policy for managing team storage requests.
- **Article 43** – Will discuss on May 18.

### **Urgent Items Not Anticipated Prior to 48-hours of Posting**

N/A

### **Schedule meetings**

Meeting locations will be confirmed prior to the meeting dates May 18 (regular Commission meeting, Zoom) and then Public Forum will take place for the Weston & Sampson presentation for May 24.

### **Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 10:15 PM

### **Materials Referenced**

Agenda  
Code of Conduct  
Tree Canopy Report  
Color War Permit Request  
Storage Container Packet

Respectfully Submitted,

Lisa Collins, Secretary