



**NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION REMOTE ONLINE
MEETING MINUTES**

May 6, 2021, 7 PM

Approved 5-20-2021

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

Absent: Bea Bezmalinovic

Guests: Linda Chow, Chair, School Committee

Public Speak: No one was present for public speak.

Action/Discussion Items:

● **Review and Possible Vote on Permit Requests:**

-Fiske PTO 5th Grade Celebration: Ollie Turner Park A permit was submitted to use the park for 2 hours on either the 16th or 17th of June for the 5th grade celebration at Ollie Turner Park. Parking and traffic concerns have been addressed. A DJ has been requested to hire within the permit request. The Board questioned why the event couldn't be held at Fiske, and would request more information. The NRC has a no amplification policy, so hiring a DJ for Ollie Turner would likely be denied.

-Outdoor Environmental Worship at McKinnon Park, Pine Haven Forest Church A resident who is also a pastor would like to have services on the second Sunday of the month for several months at McKinnon Park. Parking issues have been discussed with the permit applicant. The number of participants wasn't identified, but the group size seemed to be small. Ms. Robert expressed concern about holding public space for private events through a permit and questioned if the church had their own green space that they could use for this event. It is understood that the park is open to the public, and as long as it and its rules are being followed, it is allowed to be used. This permit seemed unnecessary to issue; the Board was in agreement to deny this permit.

● **Pollinator Habitat Project: Pollinate Wellesley** Pollinator presentations have began and are showing high attendance rates. There will be more in the near future; people who wish to attend can sign up through the Wellesley Conservation Land Trust's website. More events will open up soon.

Liaison Reports:

● **Hunnewell Track and Field project update:** Linda Chow from the School Committee was present and spoke about updates on the Track and Field project at Hunnewell Field. Linda mentioned that a website is in the process of being created where updates can be posted for members of the public to view. There are three sub-projects that make up the overall Hunnewell Track and Field project: new bathrooms, new team rooms, and lighting. A slide was presented showing progress that has been made to this point by the Committee and next steps, which Linda reiterated. A public forum will be planned as part of the outreach. A visit will be conducted to Newton South to get ideas for lighting possibilities. Ms. Burson mentioned the importance of broad outreach, not just localized outreach regarding the lighting. Ms. McManus proposed inviting abutters of Hunnewell Field to join

the School Committee on their visit to Newton South. Progress is starting to be made on the bathrooms at the Track and Field, and all of the funding is now in place.

- **Mobility Committee:** Ms. Burson shared that the public meeting was successful with a high turn out from the community. Surveys were distributed by the Committee to help them gather public opinions.
- **Playing Fields Task Force:** Ms. Burson shared that equal distribution of field use has been a primary focus. How time has been allocated in the past is being addressed to ensure fair distribution, especially between newer sports, and boys' and girls' teams.
- **Trails:** Ms. Robert shared that the three-section bog bridges have been installed at Centennial Reservation thanks to Sam Anderson and Troop 185, and the new trail at the North 40 has been blazed. The 5-year plan is being worked on. Centennial's site visit to address potential ideas for restoration will be this Saturday May 8. May 12 is the next Trails meeting, outside behind Town Hall at 6:30, weather permitting.
- **Climate Emergency:** Ms. Burson shared that the Mystic River Watershed Association gave an update with information about Wampanoag Tribes. The tribes celebrate their New Year in May with the herring runs, and as temperatures increase, the patterns in the fish movement changes which creates a cultural impact on these tribes' holidays. Ms. McManus shared that Town Meeting voted to set ambitious goals on reducing greenhouse gas emissions as such: 50% below 2007's baseline by 2030 and to be net zero by 2050.

Director's Report:

- **Project Updates**
 - Fuller Brook Fish Passage** The Wetlands Protection Committee issued a Negative Determination for the project of using sandbags to test this concept of helping fish migrate up Fuller Brook. The timing was just off for piloting this year, but this project will be explored during next year's migration period.
 - Charles River Climate Compact** Mr. Schmitt attended the Compact's second workshop where the top three actions that the group wanted to see modeled were further expanded on. The three actions revolved around: green stormwater infrastructure, reducing impervious surfaces, and land conservation. Regarding impervious surfaces, Wellesley was high on the list, which is something for the Commission to consider in the future.
- **Open Space and Recreation Plan** The draft goals and objectives still needs some work. Mr. Schmitt asked the Board for its input to help move the main goals and objectives forward. Creation of survey questions is the next step.
- **Alteration of Fuller Brook Park @ Appleby Road.** Mr. Schmitt shared images of alteration made along Fuller Brook Park by residents to create ramps and hills for bikes. He shared that a site visit was made by him and other department heads, to discuss restoration, and that they met with several neighbors at the site of the degradation and explained why this alteration and activity is not appropriate for this area. The DPW is planning to restore the area, which is located in wetlands, as soon as this weekend, and will install protective fencing. The NRC will pay the DPW for the work out of its own funds. Ms. Burson mentioned that there seems to be a higher interest in mountain biking activities in town and that a maintained mountain bike path is something that might be thought about to help accommodate this desire. Mr. McHale recommended mentioning this issue to the Mobility Committee and they may be able to point kids in the direction of good places to bike at this caliber.
- **Field Lighting Consultant Update** Bob Parks, lighting consultant, visited Wellesley in April, collected information, met with representatives from a lighting company, and visited Wellesley College's lighting installation. He is compiling his final report and will present his findings and answer questions at the NRC's next meeting on Thursday May 20.

Approve Minutes:

After a motion was made and seconded, the Board approved the meeting minutes for 4/14/2021 with a 4-0 vote.

Schedule Future Meetings:

N/A

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

N/A

Adjourn:

The public meeting was adjourned at 8:37 PM.

The Board then entered Executive Session under M.G.L. c. 30A, Section 21(A) to discuss potential litigation for the illegal tree removal at 69 Forest Street.

*Respectfully submitted,
Leah Wallner, NRC Clerk*