



TOWN OF WELLESLEY

MASSACHUSETTS

NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION

MEETING MINUTES

June 3rd, 2021, 7 PM

Approved 6/17/2021

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

**Guests:** Nancy Stakum, Martha Collins, Jeanne Mayell, Marc Schectman, Johanna Winkelman

**Public Speak:** No one spoke on a non-agenda item.

**Action/Discussion Items**

**Wildlife Cameras proposal:** Ms. Wallner presented a proposal to install three wildlife cameras in various parkland locations to capture images of wildlife, that could then be posted on the NRC's website. Mr. Schmitt confirmed that there were sufficient funds in the NRC budget to cover the cameras. The board suggested investigating a camera that could upload data to the cloud, and capture video, and enthusiastically supported the project.

**Climate Emergency:** -DPU 2050 Climate Goal support letter  
The board discussed a draft letter to the Department of Public Utilities urging regulators to take actions to meet the Commonwealth's 2050 Climate Goals, and to include municipalities, as the stakeholders. Cities, towns, relevant agencies/offices, and individual officials are invited to sign on to the letter. The board expressed interest in having Select Board Member Lise Olney come to a future meeting to discuss the letter and other issues related to the Natural Gas infrastructure.

**Pollinator Habitat Project:** Pollinate Wellesley: The NRC will be distributing free native pollinator planter kits to residents in exchange for data collection via the uploading of photographs of visiting insects and other wildlife. Contact Lisa Moore at [LMoore@wellesleyma.gov](mailto:LMoore@wellesleyma.gov) for more information and to reserve a kit.

**Review and Possible Vote on Permit Requests:** After a motion was made and seconded, the board voted unanimously to permit a basketball tournament at Hunnewell Courts, led by the Wellesley High School Class of 2022, and scheduled for June 9<sup>th</sup> from 12PM-2PM. The court area will be cleaned up after the event, and as per NRC policy, amplification is prohibited.

**Hunnewell Field Lighting Discussion** The board discussed next steps for the Lighting evaluation, and agreed to move forward with replacement of the existing lighting at the Warren Field and Tennis courts. The board discussed the recommendation to address lighting near the oak tree along the first base line at Warren Field. Replacement will involve an application to the Community Preservation Committee for funding, and the Green Communities Grant Program. A board member questioned the difference in the lighting schematics between Musco's as presented by Bob Parks and Musco's as presented in the Community Forum. It was concluded that Musco had revised the schematic to remove lighting from the track thereby decreasing light trespass and that the design may not be final. Members agreed Bob Parks would review and comment on the final design as part of his final report. Several residents raised concerns about the negative environmental impacts of lights on trees and the wetlands resource area including Fuller Brook and State Street Pond as well as concerns about light trespass to homes; concerns about noise, trash and traffic; and in favor of replacing the existing lights.

### **Liaison Reports**

**Trails:** Ms. Robert reported that the Trails Committee was in the process of closing off some of the obsolete and redundant trails at Centennial Reservation in order to reduce fragmentation of the habitat.

**Playing Fields Task Force:** Mr. McHale reported that the Playing Fields Task Force discussed at their June 3, 2021 meeting the issue of field demand, as well as efforts to manage conflicting field use requests.

**Mobility Committee:** Ms. Burson reported that the Mobility Committee is discussing including trail connections and cross walk improvements as part of the Complete Streets Design for Walnut Street, and the DPW will follow up with the Trails Committee for their feedback, too.

### **Director's Report**

**Wetlands Appointment Process:** Mr. Schmitt explained that the NRC received 3 applications for Associate positions for the Wetlands Protection Committee and would be developing a process and team to review the applications and make nomination recommendations

**Project Updates:** Mr. Schmitt provided an update on the Charles River Climate Compact, Open Space and Recreation Plan, and the Town's Climate Action Plan.

**Natural Gas Pipeline License in Town Forest:** The NRC is awaiting additional information and clarification on the license request from Enbridge/Algonquin to enter and alter Town Forest property to perform natural gas pipeline maintenance activity outside of their existing easement.

**Return to In-person meetings:** The board discussed the return to in-person meetings, and indicated their preference to retain the option to hold remote and or hybrid meetings if possible and allowed.

**Plastic Bag Regulations:** Mr. Schmitt reported that he was contacted by the Roche Brothers Regulatory Compliance office regarding the distribution of plastic bags. The NRC also received a report that the Wellesley Roche Bros. was distributing plastic bags. The NRC will be issuing a letter to the store to request that they re-evaluate that practice.

### **Approve Minutes**

*After a motion was made and seconded, the board voted unanimously to approve the May 20th, 2021 NRC meeting minutes as amended.*

### **Schedule Future Meetings**

N/A

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

N/A

### **Adjourn**

Ms. McManus adjourned the meeting at 8:43 PM

Respectfully Submitted,

Brandon Schmitt, Director