



NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION  
 REMOTE ONLINE MEETING MINUTES

June 17th, 2021, 7 PM

**Approved 7/15/2021**

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

**Guests:** Lise Olney, Select Board; Cliff Canaday; Martha Collins, Nancy Stakun

A remembrance was given by Ms. McManus for Neal Seaborn, a former Commissioner of the NRC who has passed.

**Public Speak:** Nobody was present for public speak.

**Action/Discussion Items:**

- **Climate Emergency**
  - **DPU 2050 Climate Goal support letter** Lise Olney from the Town of Wellesley's Select Board was present to discuss the DPU 2050 Climate Goal support letter. The letter is in regards to the DPU 2080 proceeding, which was generated by a request to move off of natural gas usage. A stakeholder process is involved within the proceeding, and the DPU support letter is requesting municipalities to sign onto as a stakeholder. Both the Select Board and Climate Action Committee have signed on as stakeholders. The Board showed favor to signing onto the letter as a stakeholder.
  - **Climate Action Plans Working Group** This group met for a workshop and Ms. McManus, Ms. Burson, and Mr. Schmitt were in attendance.
- **Fuller Brook Knotweed Management** Former NRC Commissioner Herb Nolan (not present) and his daughter have brought to the NRC a volunteer-driven knotweed management plan at Fuller Brook. Mr. Schmitt explained the knotweed issues at Fuller Brook and efforts for eradication. The Board is concerned that even with intense eradication efforts, due to how aggressively it spreads, will the efforts be enough to keep it away.
- **Pollinator Habitat Project: Pollinate Wellesley** Free native planting container kits will be available for residents in return for uploading photographs of visiting insects and pollinators to the online database iNaturalist. The kits will be distributed on Saturday, June 26<sup>th</sup> at Town Hall from 10 AM to 2 PM. Contact Lisa Moore for more information and to sign-up at lmoore@wellesleyma.gov.
- **Sound Policy Violation at Hunnewell Track and Field** Mr. Schmitt shared a violation of the sound policy at Hunnewell Track and Field. The NRC previously denied the use of amplified sound at this event on their 5/20/2021 meeting. Mr. Schmitt attended to the site upon receiving a complaint at the office; applicant seemed aware of the denied permit but proceeded to use amplified sound regardless. A resident called and discussed their frustration with not having advanced notice regarding the use of the sound system, and would appreciate if the speaker users would be able to find a way to announce when the sound system will be in use.

Ms. Robert explained that there is a process to follow and it is important to stick with it to avoid stressful situations for the staff. She questioned what the options are for handling this situation. Mr. Schmitt mentioned that the policy states that when an applicant fails to adhere to a permit, you can be denied a request in the future. He mentioned that there is also the option to request a bond to promote compliance. Mr. McHale asked if the policy mentioned the issuance of fines, to which Mr. Schmitt explained that the fining process is a tricky process. Ms. Bezmalinovic asked who the applicant was and if they are a frequent applicant. Community Investors was the applicant and they frequently use Town parkland. Ms. Bezmalinovic proposed that since the applicant is a frequent user, it may be appropriate to issue a warning rather than deny future permits. Ms. Burson clarified that the permit was for no amplified sound, and that when Mr. Schmitt approached the applicant, the sound volume was reduced, not shut off. Mr. Schmitt reiterated that the issue is surrounding the disregard to the permit rules. Ms. McManus proposed the requirement of a bond for future permits with this applicant. How the bond would work was discussed. *A motion was made and seconded to require a \$500 bond from Community Investors, towards permits already issued and/or permits requested for the calendar year June 19, 2021 to June 18, 2022, where repeated offenses may result in the potential loss of permits. The motion was approved by a 5-0 vote.*

- **Hunnewell Field Lighting Discussion** Mr. Schmitt presented the results of the lighting report to the Community Preservation Committee, and indicated that the NRC will be submitting a request for CPA funding to update the existing lighting at the Warren Field and tennis courts. The Committee was receptive to the request. Many residents called in expressing concerns for adding new lighting to the Hunnewell Track and Field, considering changes that will occur within the neighborhood and changes to the environment/land.

### Liaison Reports:

**Trails:** Ms. Robert reported that the fall guided-walks will be continued. She also mentioned that the bridge that crosses the Charles River now has its flower boxes filled.

### Director's Report:

- **Wetlands Appointment Process** Three applications have been submitted to the NRC for the Wetlands Associate Member position. They will have phone call interviews tomorrow with the applicants, as well as Julie Meyer, the Wetlands Administrator, and some of the NRC and WPC members.
- **Natural Gas Pipeline License in Town Forest: Enbridge/Algonquin** Clarifications on the plans were submitted. 5 trees are intended on being removed. On the most recent mitigation plan, it shows that 3 trees must be removed, with an additional 12 that may be removed within the Town Forest. They are unsure still of a definite number. Mitigation plans show the installation of 6 ½ trees for every tree that is removed with a 90% survival rate ensured. The Board expressed interest in pursuing reimbursement for damage costs.
- **Hunnewell Basketball court lights** The lights at the basketball courts are not working. Facilities Management has been to the site to evaluate the problem. The electricity box is corroded and needs repair. A third-party electrician will be evaluating the scope of work and providing a quote. There is not a clear department that this project would fall jurisdiction to.

### Approve Minutes:

*After a motion was made and seconded, the board approved the meeting minutes for 6/3/2021 with a 5-0 vote.*

**Schedule Future Meetings:** The Board agreed to cancel their 7/1/2021 meeting due to anticipated absences.

**Urgent Items Not Anticipated Prior to 48-hours of Posting:** N/A

**Adjourn:**

The meeting adjourned at 9:08 PM.

*Respectfully submitted,  
Leah Wallner, NRC Clerk*