



NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION MEETING AGENDA

July 6th, 2023 7 PM

Approved 8-24-2023

Kingsbury Room Wellesley Police Department, 485 Washington Street

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

Guests: John Maccini; Kerry Sullivan; Ansley Martin, Recreation Commission

Welcome and Meeting Guidelines

Mr. McHale called the meeting to order at approximately 7:00PM

Public Speak (non-agenda item)

Ms. Sullivan and Mr. Mancini both addressed the NRC with concerns about the impact of noise from Pickleball on abutters of various town courts in use and reported that the Superintendent and School Committee agreed that Sprague courts should be closed other than for scholastic use. The NRC then discussed Pickleball (see below).

New and Continuing Business

Appointments: Trails Committee, Wetlands Protection Committee

Deferred to a future meeting.

Approve Policy Revisions; Sections [1](#), [4-6](#), [7](#), [8-10](#)

After a motion was made (Collins) and seconded (D'Ortenzio), the Commission voted unanimously to approve the policy handbook sections 1, 4-6, 7 and 8-10 as revised. NRC staff will work to format and digitize the policy in coming months.

Pickleball Discussion with Ansley Martin, Recreation Commission

Mr. Martin outlined Recreation Commission's suggested short-term plan to reduce the impact of pickleball on abutters to Sprague and Perrin while still meeting some demand for pickleball play, as follows:

1. Limit pickleball hours at all courts from 9am-7pm
2. Limit play to 4 days per week
3. Add pickleball lines at Wellesley HS basketball courts, Hunnewell tennis courts (one court only), and Schofield

-Ms. Robert raised concerns about the location of the proximity to the children's playground at Hunnewell tennis courts, and the dual usage at the Hunnewell basketball courts.

4. Request and recommend players use indoor balls
5. Update the website and registration system
6. Install signage at courts with days & hours information

Mr. Martin asked the NRC to approve relining courts and changing the hours.

Mr. McHale outlined the work currently being done to identify locations for alternative courts longer term, with the goal to bring forward a proposal to Special Town Meeting in the fall. Discussion regarding overall demand, court monitoring, temporary vs. permanent solutions, efficacy of sound barriers, competing user groups (e.g. non-racquet, tennis, pickleball) and financing (capital investment and shared cost models) were addressed.

Final NRC action taken: Agreed to the recommendation for limiting hours and days and lining courts at Hunnewell (one court) and Schofield only.

Director's Report

Project Updates:

- (1) **3R Working Group:** Mr. Schmitt reported on a 3R Working group meeting where DPW had outlined goals for the upcoming year including reducing waste generated at the Town's parklands.
- (2) **Morses Pond:** Mr. Schmitt reported that the harvester, conveyor and trailer were nearly complete, and that the Morses Pond Erosion sites had been installed. Some follow up work will be needed at Pine Point and the plant material will take some time to become established.
- (3) **Soil Sampling:** Mr. Schmitt outlined the data from soil sampling at Reeds, Duck Pond, and at Overbrook Park, where some contaminants exceeded certain thresholds.
- (4) **Centennial and Sisters of Charity:** A site walk is scheduled for Wednesday July 12th.

Liaison Reports/Other Related Project Comments

Trails: Ms. Robert provided an update on Trails projects, including a bog bridge at Centennial Park and scheduled trails walks.

Morses Pond: Mr. D'Ortenzio commended the efforts to improve the weed situation at Morses Pond and inquired about a closer pass at zone 4.

Gas Leaf Blowers: Ms. Bezmalinovic discussed efforts in other Towns to ban gas powered leaf blowers. She discussed a multi-town approach and how Wellesley might benefit from working with other communities on the issue.

Climate Emergency

N/A

Approve Minutes

June 15, 2023: The minutes were deferred to a future meeting.

Urgent Items Not Anticipated Prior to 48-hours of Posting

N/A

Schedule meetings

Meeting scheduled for July 24th.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 8:42

Materials Referenced

Agenda 7-6-2023

NRC Policy Manual Draft Sections

Images of Weed Harvester

Trails Committee Project proposal for Centennial Park

Draft June 15th Minutes

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Collins, Secretary