

NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION  
REMOTE ONLINE MEETING MINUTES

July 15th, 2021, 7 PM

Approved 8-5-2021

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

**Absent:** Allison Burson

**Guests:** Wayne Everett

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

**Action/Discussion Items:**● **Vote Appointments**○ **Wetlands Protection Committee:**

*After a motion was made and seconded, the Board voted 4-0 to reappoint Peter Jones to the Wetlands Protection Committee for a three-year term through June 30, 2024, effective immediately.*

*After a motion was made and seconded, the Board voted 4-0 to appoint Kevin Hanron and Doug Hersh as Associate Members of the Wetlands Protection Committee for a three-year term through June 30, 2024, effective immediately.*

○ **Trails Committee:** *After a motion was made and seconded, the Board voted 4-0 to appoint Steve Park; Chair, Denny Nackoney; Vice Chair, Eric Sofen; Secretary, Bob Brown, Joan Gaughan, Diane Hall, John Schuler, Ekaterina Zemlyakova, Jeff Zupan, and Laura Robert to the Wellesley Trails Committee through June 30, 2022, effective immediately. Laura Robert abstained from voting on the nomination of her appointment.*

- **Climate Emergency** Ms. McManus shared that she has been working with the Gas Leaks Kills Trees group, which is a committee of the Gas Leaks Allies. The groups' upcoming efforts are focused on passing a Municipal Reforestation Bill. Urban forests can help reverse climate change impacts, and this bill would require each municipality to have a Municipal Reforestation Plan that the Commonwealth will fund. In the future, the Gas Leaks Allies will ask for support from municipalities and organizations across the state.
- **Pollinate Wellesley: Pesticide Reduction Bills** There are a few upcoming pesticide reduction bills being proposed in the upcoming legislative session. Ms. McManus conveyed that she has received complaints from residents regarding pesticides, including solicitation of pesticide spraying for mosquitoes, and that the best means of intervention may be through regulation. Ms. McManus asked the Board what their opinions are on supporting these bills as they are currently proposed, and will provide more information on specific bills. She also reminded that residents who received a pollinator kit from the Town to be taking pictures of visiting pollinators and uploading them to the iNaturalist app.

- **Hunnewell Field Lighting** The NRC previously agreed to pursue funding to update the existing lights at the Warren Field and Tennis courts. An application will be submitted to the Community Preservation Committee for funding support, as well as an application for the Green Communities Grant. The timing for this request is still not yet decided, as there were questions regarding the funding process and Town's timeline. The decision on when to bring the funding request to the Community Preservation Committee, and consequently to which Town Meeting to bring the funding request, was discussed by the Board.. Corrections to the consultant's lighting report were suggested by the Board. The discrepancies between the consultant's lighting report and Musco's representations, and how to make meaning and reconcile those, were discussed.  
The Board debated the effect new lighting at the Track and Field may have on the nocturnal environment. . Wayne Everett, abutter, spoke regarding discrepancies in the reports, Mr. Parks' credentials, and the consequences to homes of adding lights. Ms. McManus shared that the NRC is waiting for the School Committee to bring them a proposal. Mr. McHale showed interest in having Musco come to a meeting and discuss the charts in their report and why it is different from Bob Park's report.. Mr. Schmitt will reach out to both parties to ask for written clarification.
- **Vote Gift Acceptance: \$5,525 for Town Forest** This \$5,525 gift is compensation for five trees which need to be removed during gas pipeline repair work in the Town Forest by Algonquin/Enbridge. In addition to the gift, Algonquin/Enbridge will also provide tree planting in accordance with its submitted tree planting plan. The gift will be held in trust for funds to preserve the Town Forest. *After a motion was made and seconded, the Board voted 4-0 to approve the gift to the NRC from Algonquin Energy of \$5,525 to preserve and maintain the Town Forest.*

### **Liaison Reports:**

**Trails:** Trails liaison Ms. Robert thanked Trails Vice Chair Denny Nackoney for quickly removing recently reported graffiti on Rocky Ledges. There was conversation about when and where to post trails' crossing signs at Overbrook Drive and Cochituate Aqueduct trail. More work has been performed at Centennial Reservation, including the removal and trimming of hazard trees and limbs. The Committee also received a grant for a safe crossing at State Street and Fuller Brook Park. A site visit had to be canceled at the Wellesley Office Park, where there is a trail head that is being entertained as an extension to the Charles River Trail.

### **Director's Report:**

- **Morses Pond Shoreline and N40 Vernal Pool Restoration** Proposals from Parterre were submitted for adding plant material at Morses Pond, and the North 40 Vernal Pool. The Board showed support in using CPC funds for the project at Morses Pond, and NRC funds for the North 40.
- **Permits (if any)** There are 2 permits that will be issued by the Director that have been approved in the past with no issues. The first permit is for the Wellesley Mother's Forum at the Town Hall Green on September 18<sup>th</sup> for their fall carnival, and another for their Playdate in the Park on September 10<sup>th</sup> (or 11<sup>th</sup>).
- The Board thanked Roche Bros for voluntarily agreeing to forego their use of thick plastic checkout bags, and for being an important partner in the Town's waste reduction efforts.

### **Approve Minutes:**

*After a motion was made and seconded, the board approved the meeting minutes for 6/17/2021 with a 4-0 vote. After a motion was made and seconded, the board approved the Executive Session minutes for 5/6/2021 with a 3-0 vote. Bea Bezmalinovic abstained.*

**Schedule Future Meetings:** N/A

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

**Adjourn:**

The meeting adjourned at 9:14 PM.

*Respectfully submitted,  
Leah Wallner, NRC Clerk*