



TOWN OF WELLESLEY

MASSACHUSETTS

NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES Approved 8/27/2020

July 30, 2020, 7 PM

<https://www.wellesleymedia.org/live-streaming.html>

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

Guests: Dave Cohen, Dave Hickey

Public Speak

No one spoke on a non-agenda item.

New and Continuing Business

Liaison Reports: Ms. Griffith reported on Playing Fields Task Force matters, including complaints about sound use at Lee Field, and lack of adherence to the COVID-19 social distancing guidelines.

Trails: Laura Robert reported that the Trails Committee would be working on the re-routing of trails in the North 40, and re-routed a portion of the Cross-town trail.

Climate Crisis – Ms. McManus recapped the Leaf Blower Presentation co-sponsored by the NRC, SEC and Sustainable Wellesley. The “ask” of attendees was for residents to speak with their own landscapers about moving away from the use of gas-powered leaf blowers, especially during the summer months, and transitioning to battery-powered equipment at other times. The Board also discussed a possible Microgrid proposal that might involve the use of Morton Park for geothermal wells.

Director’s Report

Department Update:

Town Project Update:

-Fields: See urgent items not anticipated below.

-Bathrooms: Mr. Hickey and Mr. Cohen explained the most recent design concepts for aqueduct bathrooms at Hunnewell fields, which include a pre-cast concrete building.

-Lighting consultation: Mr. Schmitt explained that the RFP for lighting consultation had been distributed, and responses would be due later in the summer.

-Tree Planting: Mr. Schmitt reported that an RFP was sent to local tree care companies to assist with tree planting in the Fall.

-MVP application: Mr. Schmitt explained that Marybeth from the SEC will be distributing an RFP for the MVP action grant, and the NRC will be cosigners on the contract.

-Morses Pond: Mr. Schmitt reported progress on the weed harvesting, which had been an issue earlier in the summer.

Permits: Semester at Home Warren Park. The board reviewed a tentative permit application for Semester at Home education program at Warren park. The request was under review by the Recreation Department to avoid conflicts with existing programming at the park.

Urgent items not anticipated prior to 48 hours of meeting

Mr. Hickey and Mr. Cohen proposed a revision to the approved designs at the Hunnewell Multi-use softball field which included adding a decorative brick half-wall to each dugout. The board discussed concerns about

additional impact from as well as the funding required for the changes. No action was taken on this request.

Schedule Minutes/Approve Minutes

After a motion was made and seconded, the board voted unanimously to approve the July 16, 2020 minutes.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 PM.

Materials Referenced

- Conceptual drawings for Multi-Purpose Field Dugouts.
- Draft 7-16-2020 Minutes
- Permit Applications; HS Graduation, Semester at Home

Respectfully submitted,

Brandon Schmitt, Director