



TOWN OF WELLESLEY

MASSACHUSETTS

NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION
REMOTE ONLINE MEETING MINUTES

August 19, 2021, 7 PM

Approved 9-2-2021

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

Absent: Bea Bezmalinovic

Guests: Steve Park, Trails Committee Chair; Jay Prosnitz, Alice Miller

Public Speak: Nobody was present for public speak.

Action/Discussion Items:

● **Appointment: Trails Committee** Steve Park, the Trails Committee Chair, requested that the NRC appoint Jay Prosnitz to the Trails Committee. *After a motion was made and seconded, the Board voted 4-0 in favor of appointing Jay Prosnitz to the Trails Committee, effective immediately.*

● **Tree Hearing**

Alice Miller, neighbor to 68 Upson Road, called in to discuss favor for the removal of the white pine presented at 68 Upson Road.

After discussion, a motion was made and seconded, and the Board voted 4-0 in favor in the removal of the following trees:

20 Sumner Rd	23" Norway Maple
18 Wilde Rd	26" Sugar Maple
49 Arlington Rd	33" Ash
68 Upson Rd	37" White Pine
10 Damien Rd	15" Norway Maple
4 Longmeadow Rd	38" Ash
31 Elm St	20" Maple
Linden St & Crest Rd	15" Oak
17 Cypress Rd	12" Norway Maple
2 Greenbough Ln	7" Sugar Maple
44 Highgate Rd	39" Red Oak
33 Paine St	21" Red Maple

and to retain the following trees:

180 Wellesley Ave	38" Pine
15 Kirkland Cir	15" Norway Maple

● **Donation Approval:** The NRC reviewed a donation request from resident Sheldon Tager of a bench in Fuller Brook Park in honor of his wife. Town Landscape Planner Cricket Vlass of the DPW reviewed and approved of the proposed location of Abbott Road and Caroline Street. *After a motion was made*

and seconded, the Board voted 4-0 in favor of accepting the bench donation at Fuller Brook Park from Sheldon Tager.

- **Climate Emergency:** Ms. Burson shared that the Roche Brothers parking lot recently flooded, which fits into later agenda items regarding stormwater and flooding. Mr. McHale added that all of Linden Street was flooded. Ms. McManus shared that the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Report was recently released, which stated that our world is on fire and flooding, and that actions need to be taken now.
- **Pollinate Wellesley:** Ms. McManus shared that the Native Garden Tour Pedal to Petals route will be posted on the NRC website next week.
- **Lighting Report:** The Board reviewed an updated draft of the lighting report, which contained responses to questions previously submitted. Mr. McHale stated that it may be useful to ask Musco Lighting to verify the data submitted by lighting consultant Bob Parks. After discussion, the Board agreed to have the data in the report verified before moving beyond the draft phase

Liaison Reports:

Mobility: Ms. Burson shared that the Sustainable Mobility Plan is in a draft form. For the Climate Action Plan, there is a mobility component that the Committee is contributing to.

Trails: Ms. Robert gave a PSA that the Trails Committee is looking for an Eagle Scout to build a bog bridge at Boulder Brook. The Committee is also continuing to work on trails volunteer days, walks, road safety, Centennial restoration, and the North 40 remediation.

Director's Report:

- **Climate Compact Flood Model Demo:** Mr. Schmitt demonstrated the new Charles River Watershed modeling tool, developed as part of the Climate Compact, a group comprised of eleven towns along the river. The map models different flooding levels for different storm scenarios, and will help Wellesley and other towns plan for more frequent rainfall by identifying actions which can reduce flooding and damages. The model is available to view and use on the Charles River Watershed Association's website, www.CRWA.org
- **Wetland Outreach Material:** NRC staff members have been working together to make new homeowners living near water aware that any work performed in a wetland area is regulated by the state and town, and to inform residents that the department is available for questions. Ms. McManus asked if notification could go out to all residences which abut wetlands. A postcard could be a cheaper option for the department to send to current residents as a reminder to seek a permit before working in a wetland resource area.
- A permit request was submitted for the annual Barefoot Soccer event, which has been permitted in the past. The event is a fundraiser to help fight AIDs in Africa. The permit will be approved for either the coming weekend or one after that.

Approve Minutes:

After a motion was made and seconded, the board approved the meeting minutes as amended for 8/05/2021 with a 4-0 vote.

Schedule Future Meetings: The Board will hold its annual retreat on September 23, 2021 at 6 PM. The September 16, 2021 meeting falls on Yom Kippur, and will be canceled.

Urgent Items Not Anticipated Prior to 48-hours of Posting: Mr. Schmitt shared that the survey for the Open Space and Recreation Plan has been posted on the NRC webpage and encouraged residents to complete it.

Adjourn:

The meeting adjourned at 8:40 PM.

*Respectfully submitted,
Leah Wallner, NRC Clerk*