



NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION
REMOTE ONLINE MEETING MINUTES

September 2, 2021, 7 PM

Approved 10-7-2021

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

Public Speak: Nobody was present for public speak.

Action/Discussion Items:

- **Advocacy for Municipal Reforestation and Pesticide Reduction Bills:** Ms. McManus asked for the NRC's support for the following bills: an act establishing the municipal reforestation program (supported by the Gas Leaks Allies and Gas Leaks Kill Trees Group), an act to expand the bottle bill, an act relative to plastic bag reduction, an act to save recycling costs in the Commonwealth, an act to reduce single-use plastics, an act empowering towns and cities to protect residents and the environment from pesticides, an act to protect raptors from rat poisoning, a mosquito management program, and an act relative to protect Massachusetts school children from pesticides. The Board showed their support in supplying their advocacy for the above-mentioned bills.
- **Climate Emergency:** Ms. Bezmalinovic shared that traffic for traveling to and from school accounts to 30% of traffic in Wellesley, and the Schools and the Climate Action Committee are encouraging people begin new behaviors and walk or bike to schools rather than drive. Ms. McManus shared that hurricane Ida hit yesterday, and hurricane Henri in past weeks, and sent sympathies to the people in the areas that got hit hard from the hurricanes. As the climate continues to change, we are seeing more frequent and strong storms, and we want to be prepared and able to mitigate any damages caused from this. She also shared that the Health Department has found West Nile Virus in some mosquitos in Wellesley, and encouraged people to visit the Health Department page on the Town's website in order to educate and protect yourself and family.
- **Pollinate Wellesley:** Ms. Bezmalinovic shared that the Pedals to Petals (or Feet to Flowers) native garden tour route has been posted on the NRC website, and a second route may be posted.
- **Permit: Wellesley Hills Junior Women's Club Wonder Run 5K, Hunnewell Track and Field, Sunday, October 2; 7:30AM-12:30PM:** This is an event that the NRC has permitted before. The applicant will use the Smith St. lot as the registration area. They will have the MWRA water buggy, offer steel water cans as opposed to plastic water bottles, provide waste buckets that will be brought to the RDF for recycling after the event; amplification will only be used to announce the start of the event. The event will begin at 9 AM, but earlier set up will be required. Ms. Bezmalinovic asked if there have been issues that neighbors have had in the past with this event, and Mr. Schmitt answered no. The applicants are expecting 600 participants. The Board agreed that based on past experiences, Mr. Schmitt can issue the permit administratively.

Liaison Reports:

Climate Action Plan Mobility Committee: Planning for what to include in the Climate Action Plan regarding mobility has been discussed.

Wetlands: Mr. McHale shared that one of the wetlands permits, 15 The Waterway, will be required to have the town survey the land since there is a question of how big the property is. The road itself was taken years ago as parkland to be managed by the NRC.

Director's Report:

- **Open Space and Recreation Plan:** The survey will remain open for a while to try and get as much feedback as possible. There have been in-house efforts on reaching out to Wellesley schools and colleges to get student and parent feedback. The ADA portion of the Plan is currently being worked on. Mr. Schmitt briefly shared the some of the survey results so far.
- **Lighting Report:** Mr. Schmitt reviewed corrections made to the draft Lighting Report, and the Board agreed that thereport can now be accepted as final and be posted on the NRC website, along with other documents included as supporting information.
- Perrin Park has the new basketball hoops up. Thanks to the DPW and CPC for their support with this project. The pickle ball net is waiting in the NRC office for the courts to be painted, which should be done in the coming weeks.
- A very limited fall tree planting will happen in the fall, primarily for people whose trees did not survive from the spring, or people who may not have gotten one in the spring.

Approve Minutes:

After a motion was made and seconded, the board approved the meeting minutes as amended for 8/19/2021 with a 4-0 vote. Bea Bezmalinovic abstained as she was absent from the meeting.

Schedule Future Meetings: The Board will continue to meet on the first and third Thursdays of the month.

Urgent Items Not Anticipated Prior to 48-hours of Posting: None

Adjourn:

The meeting adjourned at 7:45 PM.

*Respectfully submitted,
Leah Wallner, NRC Clerk*