

NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION
Meeting Minutes
May 11, 2020

Pursuant to the notice filed with the Town Clerk, a virtual public meeting of the Natural Resources Commission was held on May 11, 2020 at 7:00 p.m, in accordance with the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Executive Order of March 12, 2020 Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law. The following Commissioners were present: Greg Higgins, Chair, Lynn Huggins, Ed Nardi, Nick Pappas, and Judy Zaunbrecher. Natural Resources Director Delia Kaye, Assistant Natural Resources Director Colleen Puzas, and Natural Resources Administrative Assistant Karen Bockoven were also present.

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• OTHER BUSINESS

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Discussion – Proposed Legislative Bill H.4650 for Mosquito Control• Discussion – USFWS Proposed Hunt Plan, Great Meadows National Wildlife Refuge |
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Chair Higgins called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. He stated that the NRC meeting was being audio-recorded and requested that anyone from the public recording the meeting so inform the Commission.

Discussion – Proposed Legislative Bill H.4650 for Mosquito Control.

Chair Higgins noted that the proposed mosquito control legislation raises concerns because it allows the state to spray for mosquito control without notification to municipalities. There is also no sunset clause. He asked if the Commission had comments. Commissioner Huggins said that the Director’s draft letter in opposition to the proposed bill spells out the concerns of the NRC. The NRC agreed.

Mark Gailus, 62 Prescott Road, stated his support of the response of the NRC. The state has not made it clear what the criteria would be to apply spray or not.

Commissioner Zaunbrecher moved to submit the comment letter as written. Commissioner Huggins seconded. **UNANIMOUSLY VOTED** by Roll Call Vote: Chair Higgins, Aye, Huggins, Aye, Nardi, Aye, Zaunbrecher, Aye.

Discussion – USFWS Proposed Hunt Plan, Great Meadows National Wildlife Refuge.

The Commission reviewed the Hunt Plan expansion proposed by the USFWS.

Commissioner Zaunbrecher asked if the letter that will be submitted is for the Federal Register comment period or is it going directly to the manager who has drafted the plan. Director Kaye said the intent is to send the letter to the Refuge Manager. Commissioner Zaunbrecher said sending to both is important. The amount of letters that are sent may also be beneficial. Chair Higgins recommended that the public send in their own letter. The NRC commented that the draft letter was good.

Mark Gailus of 62 Prescott Road strongly supports the Town’s response. He will also write a letter. Mr. Gailus said that although he is not an expert in this field, he does believe that studies are needed. It is bad time to contemplate any large change such as this because people are not able to gather and attend public meetings.

Tanya Gailus of 62 Prescott Road asked if letters should be sent to Fish & Wildlife as well as the Select Board. Chair Higgins said that is up to anyone wishing to submit a letter.

Mr. Gailus asked if the Town of Concord has had any communication with other towns that share this extended refuge. It may be helpful to combine all comments. Director Kaye said that the letter will be copied to Sudbury, Bedford, and Carlisle.

Chair Higgins noted for the record that Peter Gallagher has submitted an email which said that he opposes the proposed hunt plan.

Jane Hotchkiss, Select Board, thanked the Commission and Director Kaye for addressing this issue. The Select Board will be discussing on May 14th. The Select Board is very supportive of the NRC letter. Ms. Hotchkiss said the public is always welcome to send the Select Board any comments or thoughts. She encouraged people to send their letters to Fish & Wildlife and Wildlife Refuge.

Commissioner Huggins moved to approve the letter regarding the proposed Hunt Plan at the Great Meadows Wildlife Refuge, with the hope that the Select Board co-signs the letter. Commissioner Nardi seconded. **UNANIMOUSLY VOTED** by Roll Call Vote: Chair Higgins, Aye, Huggins, Aye, Nardi, Aye, Zaunbrecher, Aye.

Commissioner Zaunbrecher moved to adjourn. Commissioner Huggins seconded. **UNANIMOUSLY VOTED** by Roll Call Vote: Chair Higgins, Aye, Huggins, Aye, Nardi, Aye, Zaunbrecher, Aye.

This meeting adjourned at 1:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Bockoven
Administrative Assistant