

# Weymouth-Braintree Regional Recreation-Conservation District

470 Liberty Street / Braintree, MA / 02184 / Tel/Fax: (781) 843-7663

## Board of Commissioners



*William Flanagan, Chairman*

*Corey Bowdre, Treasurer*

*Frank Collins, Clerk*

*Kathy Bowes*

*Kaitlin Folan*

*John Wentworth*

### Meeting Minutes

**Date:** July 16, 2025

**Time:** 7:00 PM

**Location:** 470 Liberty Street, Braintree, MA 02184

**Called to Order (7:11pm) By:** Commissioner Flanagan

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### Roll Call (7:12pm)

#### Commissioners

**Present:** William Flanagan (Chair), Frank Collins (Clerk), Kaitlin Folan, Kathy Bowes

**Absent:** Corey Bowdre (Treasurer), John Wentworth

#### Staff

**Present:** Supervisor Brion Keefe

**Absent** Ranger Mike Nikiciuk

#### Guests Present

- Bill and Maria Norton: 56 Pilgrim Road, Braintree, MA 02184 (Public Comment)

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### Meeting Proceedings

**7:12 PM**

- The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

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### Public Comment (Taken Out of Order by Chair at 7:13 PM)

**Address:** 56 Pilgrim Road, Braintree, MA 02184

**Issue:** Large dead oak tree straddling a stone wall (possible property line between Norton property and PMP).

- The Nortons expressed safety concerns and requested removal but did not want to pursue a property survey.
- Supervisor Keefe explained it's healthier to let the tree remain on the property once taken down.
- Commissioner Flanagan emphasized typical removal cost and noted the Nortons would be responsible for that expense of taking it down without the removal cost.
- Supervisor Keefe will provide tree company recommendations and necessary documentation.

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## Approval of Previous Months Minutes

- **7:23 PM:** Chair called for approval of previous meeting minutes.
- Correction noted: the month was mistakenly recorded as “May” instead of “June” as well as slight misnotation on the “Corn and Sunflower Seeder” from the Friends of Pond Meadow, INC.

**Motion:** Motion to accept corrected minutes by Commissioner Collins

**Second:** Commissioner Folan

**Vote:** Unanimous Approval

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## Treasurer’s Report (7:26 PM)

- Given by Supervisor Keefe
  - Supervisor Keefe reported that FY26 funds have not yet been received, which is typical timing (early August).
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## Chairman’s Report (7:28 PM)

- Inquiry about FY25 DCR Grant: \$16,363.20 awarded.
  - Clarified matching grant reimbursement process and importance of timely submission.
  - Discussion of FY26 pollinator plantings and environmental education integration.
  - Website updates in progress with VIP Computing; will include pictures and updates to enhance awareness.
  - Kaitlin Folan suggested storyboards for field trips. DCR signage mentioned.
  - Commissioner reappointment updates pending: Commissioner John Wentworth still pending; Commissioner Feeney awaiting swearing-in in Weymouth.
  - Commended Park staff for handling over 7 inches of rain on July 10, 2025; effective flood control and proactive handling.
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## Supervisor’s Report (7:43 PM)

### Highlights:

1. **#5 Weed Treatment:** Successful; some unintended impact on lily pads. Possible second treatment in fall by "Water and Wetland" (recommended by Andrew Hultin).
2. **#6 Insurance Billing (Cabot):** \$2000 settlement offer rejected; further discussion ongoing with GB Collections.
3. **#7 Public Education:** “Mission with the Meadows” signage installed.
4. **#9 Smelt Brook Restoration:** All required signatures secured with efforts from Army Corps of Engineers (Jordan Macy) and Supervisor Brion Keefe. Moving on to next steps.
5. **#10 FY25 Match Grant Funds:** \$16,363.20 officially approved and disbursed within the next 30 days.
6. **#14 Park Infrastructure:** Two water spigots installed by Scott Moore Plumbing. One providing potable water for public and pet consumption.
7. **#17 FY26 Funding:** Awaiting response from Weymouth. Braintree has confirmed request. No money has been transferred currently.
8. **#18 Tree Concern (460 Liberty St):** Cottonwood causing allergy issues; ownership unclear. Supervisor Keefe used mobile app to assess. Recommendation: allow homeowner to remove at their cost. Will be added to next meeting’s agenda. The Lams will also be invited to the next meeting.
9. **#19 Tree Concern (56 Pilgrim Rd.):** Addressed in Public Comment

10. **#21 Large Rain Event Review:** 7+ inches of water. Flood system performed well; dam held water until storm passed; no discharge impact. Multiple factors led to a positive income including, water level reduced for weed treatment and low tide.
  11. **Additional - Beaver Inquiry from Commissioner Bowes:** Beavers are still present and causing their issues, but they likely mitigated water levels prior to rain event.
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## Friends of Pond Meadow Park Report (8:07 PM) – Presented by Commissioner Collins

- New mission statement adopted.
    - The Friends of Pond Meadow, Inc. is non-profit volunteer organization whose activities and efforts help to support the beautification and conservation efforts in Pond Meadow Park. We are dedicated to preserving the natural beauty of the park while enhancing the public knowledge and awareness of the woodlands, wildlife and conservation.
    - If you are interested in being a vital part of our growth, you can contact us by emailing [friendsofpmp@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofpmp@gmail.com) for more information. Contributions to the Friends of Pond Meadow are tax deductible and will ensure the future of the Friends and Pond Meadow Park. We are relying on your membership and support.
  - New contact: **friendsofpmp@gmail.com**
  - QR Code for donations in development.
  - Larger meeting planning in progress (possible Tufts Library venue).
  - Event ideas include invasive removal day and Mud Walk.
  - School involvement and community service opportunities discussed.
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## Old Business (8:14 PM)

- **Smelt Brook:** Covered in Supervisor's report.
  - **FY26 Grant Needs:** Supervisor Keefe working with State on next step for securing grant for FY26.
  - State inspection site visit impressed by current work and commended park staff.
  - Grant limitations clarified (Weymouth entrance improvements by private citizen excluded from scope of work of current grant).
  - Tractor now fully operational.
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## New Business (8:26 PM)

- **FY26 Grant:** Continue to work with State
  - **Website Design:** Website and media updates in progress (Commission, Friends pages, photos).
  - **August meeting:** will proceed if quorum is available.
  - **Mutual Aid to Hingham with Weymouth Officials:** Ranger Mike assisted Weymouth Officials and others with an Osprey nest issue on Back River (Hingham Side).
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## Commissioner Comments (8:30 PM)

- Comments made by Kathy Bowes, Kaitlin Folan, Frank Collins, Supervisor Keefe, and Chair Flanagan pertaining to the welcoming of the new recorder as well as the momentum of the progress going forward.
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**Adjournment (8:31pm)**

**Motion:** Motion to adjourn Commissioner Bowes

**Second:** Commissioner Folan

**Vote:** Unanimous Approval

**Respectfully submitted**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ryan C. MacLeod". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a long horizontal tail stroke.

**Ryan C. MacLeod**

Recorder