

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: August 20, 2025

Time: 7:00 PM

Location: 470 Liberty Street, Braintree, MA 02184

Called to Order (7:03pm) By: Commissioner Flanagan

Meeting Proceedings

7:03 PM

- The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Roll Call (7:04pm)

Commissioners

Present: William Flanagan (Chair), Frank Collins (Clerk), Kathy Bowes, John Wentworth, Rick Feeney

Absent: Corey Bowdre (Treasurer), Kaitlin Folan

Staff

Present: Supervisor Brion Keefe, Ranger Mike Nikiciuk

Absent: None

Guests Present: None

Approval of Previous Months Minutes

- **7:05 PM:** Chair called for approval of previous meeting minutes.

Motion: Motion to accept July 16th minutes by Commissioner Bowes

Second: Commissioner Collins

Vote: Unanimous Approval

Treasurer's Report (7:26 PM)

- Given by Ranger Nikiciuk
- Highlighted the Forest Fund
- Confirmed receipt of both payments from the Towns.
- Reimbursement from the State is forthcoming.
- Rick Feeney inquired about the origin of the Forest Fund; explanation provided by Commissioner Flanagan

Chairman's Report (7:10 PM)

- Welcomed Rick Feeney, the new Weymouth Commissioner, and addressed the board's collaborative culture and positive tone
- Noted the full board of commissioners. A first in a while.
- Mentioned updates on the commissioner's page of the website. Chair opened up discussion and looking for ideas regarding park content that can be featured on the website. Special thanks to Bill Ng at VIP who has been very supportive.
- Discussed outdated bylaws and proposed forming a subcommittee to review and update them, aiming for recommendations by September and ongoing work through the fall
- Announced the upcoming recruitment for a new Park Ranger, with posting after Labor Day; a subcommittee will review resumes and conduct interviews

Supervisor's Report (7:23 PM) – Given by Ranger Nikiciuk

Highlights:

1. **#4 Appropriation Checks:** Confirmed receipt of both budgetary appropriation checks from both Weymouth and Braintree. This is the first round of payments and will be followed up with a second payment in the future. Reimbursement for the FY25 Conservation Grant from the State is expected within the next 30 days.
2. **#6 Banking Safeguards:** Banking withdrawal amounts have been setup with a safeguarding cap.
3. **#9 Refund for overage:** Received \$1591.00 from Safety Insurance for reimbursement for an overage. Safety insurance was a past carrier. Premiums had been requested and paid by the district for a period beyond the new coverage initiation date.
4. **#14 Abutters letter:** Working with John Oliveri on standardized letters for abutters to assist Rangers in work efficiency when dealing with these several situations involving trees on or near the park property line. This will ensure timely, effective and appropriate response to property line issues that arrive with forestry management.
5. **#15 Grant Submission:** Submitted a second draft of the FY26 Conservation grant with the State. Was reviewed by state and returned with a suggestion to reduce total ask to a \$40,000.00 cap; another draft will be resubmitted.
6. Commissioner Bowes inquired about issues related to E-Bikes; Supervisor Keefe reported having contacted Braintree PD regarding a recent E-Bike incident. The supervisor was asked by Commission to keep track of name and address of repeat offenders as this is a safety issue.

Friends of Pond Meadow Park Report (7:40 PM) – Presented by Commissioner Collins

- Checking account balance: \$25,489.03
- Savings account created and QR Code for donations in development will go directly into new savings account.

- Discussions regarding history of FOPM and recent purchases covered by the nonprofit.
 - Hopefully discussions on the volume of potential donations once this QR project is completed.
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Old Business (7:49 PM)

- **Smelt Brook:** Waiting on updates regarding Smelt Brook Project; Braintree has lost its conservation officer.
 - **FY26 Grant Needs:** Prioritized grant draft to include work that would extend the Ranger Trail meadow to the path and plantings behind Lester Lane. Grant request will include seed purchase.
 - **Old Meadow Work:** Postponed simplifying request to state and lower the cap amount. Will consider in the future.
 - **UMass Amherst Specialist:** Need to schedule to assess the meadow; Supervisor Keefe emphasized addressing the Mugwort problems and come up with a strategy promptly.
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New Business (8:01 PM)

- **Proposed website updates:**
 - Highlight Eagle Scout Projects
 - Park Summer Program Information Enhancement
 - Social Media Addition to the Homepage
 - **Lily pad control project:** More work needed to complete the already successful project.
 - Motion to allocate up to **\$4000.00** to complete this project
 - **Motion:** Commissioner Wentworth, **Second:** Commissioner Bowes
 - **Unanimous**
 - **Park Awareness:** Discussed water management for flood control, outreach efforts to former Mayor Hedlund, Jaime Murphy, Pat O'Connor, Acting Mayor Molisse, Braintree State Reps, and Senators to raise awareness of the park
 - **Bridge replacement:** Consideration of replacing bridges within five years. Will need State support to do so. Temporary solutions are being worked on.
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Commissioner Comments (8:23 PM)

- Commissioner Frank Collins inquired about the number of permanent markers needed; Supervisor Keefe responded that 12 stakes are required to replace wooden survey stakes
 - Commissioner Kathy Bowes reported a successful camp season and praised Sean as a great addition
 - Commissioner Rick Feeney expressed happiness to be part of the board after some health issues
 - Commissioner John Wentworth shared his satisfaction with the reappointment process
 - Supervisor Brion Keefe mentioned the electric bill and aggregation notice from Town of Weymouth.
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Adjournment (8:35pm)

Motion: Motion to adjourn Commissioner Wentworth

Second: Commissioner Bowes

Vote: Unanimous Approval

Respectfully submitted

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Ryan C. MacLeod". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Ryan C. MacLeod
Recorder