

**PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION
TOWN OF NEEDHAM, MASSACHUSETTS**

**Minutes of Meeting
April 27, 2009**

PRESENT: Cynthia J. Chaston, Chairman
Brian S. Nadler, Vice Chair
Christopher R. Dollase, Member
Thomas M. Jacob, Member
Philip V. Robey, Member
Patricia M. Carey, Director
Karen A. Peirce, Assistant Director

GUESTS: Bob Cohen, Resident

The meeting convened at 6:30PM in the Inner Space Room at the Pollard Middle School.

1. **Minutes of Meeting April 13, 2009:** Mr. Robey made a motion to approve the minutes of the April 13, 2009 meeting. Mr. Nadler seconded the motion and the motion was approved.
2. **Financial Report:** None Presented.
3. **Correspondence:** None Presented
4. **Assistant Director Report:** Ms. Peirce announced the new online registration will begin on May 22. A list of upcoming events was listed in the Director's Report. Lifeguard interviews will continue until all positions are filled.
5. **Discussion Items:**
 - A. **Director's Report:** A written report was submitted prior to the meeting. Mrs. Chaston asked Ms. Carey why portable toilets were an issue at Cricket Field for the Memorial Day Soccer Tournament. Ms. Carey said about 9 years ago the Cricket neighbors were very vocal about not having unsightly portable toilets placed at Cricket at any time, including during the Memorial Day Soccer Tournament. She indicated opening and securing the Cricket Building to have the toilet available the past years has been problematic. She will contact the Needham Soccer Club and recommend renting a portable toilet at Cricket for the 2009 Soccer Tournament.
 - B. **Review of Open Meeting Law:** Ms. Carey shared a number of MRPA Board Talk articles reviewing the Massachusetts Open Meeting Law, Conflict of Interest Laws and Board and Committee responsibilities. She also noted that state training for new and veteran Town of Needham board members will be held in June.

C. Draft Staff Protocol for Synthetic Turf Fields: Discussed later in the meeting.

D. Temporary Restrooms: Discussed later in the meeting.

E. Field Construction Update: Discussed later in the meeting.

F. Youth Center Board Update: Discussed later in the meeting.

G. Encroachment on Public Land: Discussed later in the meeting.

H. Other Business: Discussed later in the meeting.

5. Discussion Items:

C. Draft Staff Protocol for Synthetic Turf Fields: Ms. Carey presented the Draft Staff Protocol for Synthetic Turf Fields created by the Synthetic Turf use Working Group. The Health Department has begun recording synthetic and natural turf field temperatures and DPW will begin doing most of that recording in early May.

D. Temporary Restrooms: Ms. Carey recommended that the Soccer Club install temporary portable toilets at Cricket field for the Memorial Day Soccer Tournament. She will work with them on placement and the delivery and pick up schedule. The consensus of the Commission was to allow use of the portable toilet for the Memorial Day Tournament.

E. Field Construction Update: There is a short punch list of items that need to be completed at Memorial Park. More netting may be needed on the 1st base side. The High School Athletic Director needs to be reminded to turn off the lights when the games are over for the evening.

F. Youth Center Board Update: Youth Center Coordinator Trish Lincoln suggested Toni Carbone as the Youth Center Representative to the Park and Recreation Commission. Ms. Carey will invite Ms. Carbone to a future meeting. Mr. Nadler suggested having the Youth Commission Representative and the Senior Center Representative also attend a future meeting to give the Commissioners an update.

G. Encroachment on Public Land: Ms. Carey shared a letter sent to Daniel and Maria Socci regarding vegetation and trees that have been cut down on the land that borders the town-owned land and it appears that vegetation was removed from town-owned land without approval of the Park and Recreation Commission. She also shared a Notice of Violation and Enforcement Order sent to Daniel and Maria Socci from the Conservation Commission.

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H. Other Business: Mr. Robey asked if the athletic field light issues have been resolved. Ms. Carey indicated that MUSCO needs to do some additional testing at both parks. She is working with the contractor to schedule the testing times. Mr. Nadler volunteered to call them to see if he could expedite the process. Mr. Nadler asked about when the park signs will be available. Ms. Carey is waiting to hear from the Highway Department on the completed signs. Mrs. Chaston asked if there were any comments regarding the field temperature information. Mr. Nadler applauded the Health Department for the initiative but he is unclear of exactly what they are trying to accomplish. In order to keep field users hydrated Mr. Robey suggested more bubblers be installed at DeFazio Park and Memorial Park.

6. Action Items:

A. First May Meeting Date: Ms. Carey will schedule a Commission meeting on May 6, 2009 prior to the Town Meeting. The May 11, 2009 Commission meeting will be rescheduled for May 13, 2009 at 6:30PM. The location will be announced.

B. Town Meeting Articles: The Commission is supportive of Town Meeting Warrant Article 50: Appropriate for Athletic Facility Maintenance. The article would appropriate \$24,000 to fund improvements to the Asa Small baseball diamond located at DeFazio Park. Mr. Dollase made a motion not to support Article 21: Citizens Petition-Natural Resources Committee as currently stated in the Town Meeting Warrant. Mr. Nadler seconded the motion and the motion was approved. Mr. Dollase volunteered to speak on behalf of the Park and Recreation Commission if there are any questions regarding Article 21.

- 7. Adjournment:** Mr. Dollase made a motion to adjourn the meeting 7:25 PM. Mr. Nadler seconded the motion and the meeting adjourned at 7:25PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen A. Peirce, CPRP, CTRS
Assistant Director