

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

**MINUTES OF MEETING
March 22, 2010**

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

GUESTS:	Bob Cohen	Resident
	Mike Retsky	Needham Sports Council
	Bill Paulson	Girls' Fast Pitch Softball
	Dave Duffy	Needham High Football
	Ben Cole	Needham Soccer Club
	Mike Orscheln	Needham Soccer Club
	Mark Miskin	Needham Soccer Club
	Don Himmelsbach	Needham Soccer Club
	Dave DiCicco	Memorial Park Trustee

The meeting convened at 7:00 PM in the Charles River Room in the Public Services Administration Building.

- 1. Minutes of Meeting of February 22, 2010:** Mr. Dollase made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 22, 2010 meeting. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Chaston and the motion was approved.

Minutes of Meeting March 8, 2010: Mr. Dollase made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 8, 2010 meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Robey and the motion was approved.

- 2. Directors Report:**

A. Report: Submitted in writing prior to the meeting. Ms. Carey reported she is in the process of finishing up the spring field schedule. Ms. Carey indicated sharing field space must be resolved at all levels. The High School Athletic Director is under pressure to raise some funds for the athletics department, but those activities need to be scheduled so that they don't interfere with community group field use.

B. Correspondence:

a.) Ms. Carey shared a letter from Mrs. Shannon Shavor requesting a Boundless Playground be built in Needham. Ms. Carey indicated all the updated playgrounds in town have some type of accessible equipment including solid surfaces at Mills and Claxton Playground donated by the Disability Commission. Mr. Nadler will contact Mrs. Shavor to include her in the playground working group.

b.) Ms. Carey reviewed some of the notes she received from the different community groups regarding field scheduling issues. Mr. Nadler indicated his disappointment in the field scheduling process this year. It seems that the groups did not make the effort to work together to resolve issues. He noted that the Memorial Park Trustees and the Commissioners will be reviewing the field scheduling policies and procedures to try and streamline and improve the current system. In addition, he also explained that the Athletic Director is trying out some new things for High School athletics and the times tend to interfere with the community group use. This year most of the groups are not completely happy with the field allocations.

Needham Soccer Club representatives Mark Miskin, Mike Orscheln and Ben Cole came forward to discuss their note to Ms. Carey. They were hoping to secure additional time on the synthetic turf fields. Mr. Nadler noted the how the fields are lined must be taken into consideration during the scheduling process. Ben Cole noted that no one wants to give up field space because then it is unlikely they will get the space back in the future. At the time of the Field Summit lacrosse registration was not completed and they did not have league schedules to review. Mr. Nadler noted that space at Conroy Field and 2 days at Cricket field were missing from the note from the Soccer club sent to Ms. Carey. Mr. Cole noted that the number of hours looks adequate but when considering the wetness of the Newman Fields and lack of synthetic turf fields they have difficulty trying to reschedule make up games. Lacrosse has offered the Soccer Club 2 8v8 fields at High Rock on Tuesday nights for practices.

Bill Paulson was invited to the table to discuss a letter he wrote regarding Fast Pitch softball field space. Mr. Paulson indicated that over the years the only option for girls was the "Bird League." He established a program for girls who want to play at a high level and off season. Currently there are two AAU teams U12, U15 scheduled to play home and away games on Sundays. The Minute Man League plays 2-3 games in the evenings and there is some player overlap. Mr. Paulson indicated he thought the Field Summit was helpful but at that time he did not think they would be playing in a weekday program. In order to accommodate the increase in play he would need one field scheduled 3 times a week for games and practices. Mr. Nadler mentioned that he would like to talk to the School Committee about making the Nike Site into field space. He would also like to have the groups meet at the end of the season to assess how the spring went.

3. Assistant Director's Report: Ms. Peirce is working with the new Conservation Agent Patty Barry on two Eagle Scout and two Girl Scout Projects. One project is at the Newman School Eastman Conservation Area, two are trail projects at Ridge Hill and one is setting up an orienteering course possibly at the Town Forest. The Summer Brochure is ready to be typed so it can get to the printer in early April. The Senior Center Re-accreditation Evaluation project is almost completed. Interviews continue for summer staff. All the supervisor positions have been offered and accepted. Kids Night Out, Itsy Bitsy and Ice Skating have ended for the season. A new Senior Exercise Program slated to begin at North Hill was cancelled due to low enrollment. Ms. Peirce will work with North Hill to schedule an exercise class there in the fall.

4. Action Items:

A. Special Event Requests:

Bay State Football Camp- Memorial Park Trustee Dave DiCicco and Dave Duffy, Needham High School Football Coach reviewed the request to host the Bay State Football Camp at DeFazio Fields on August 19 from 4:00-7:00PM, August 20 from 4:00-9:00PM, and August 21 9:00AM – 3:00PM. Mr. DiCicco has discussed the project several times with the coordinator Tom Lamb. Mr. Dollase made a motion to approve the special event request for the Bay State Football Camp to be held at DeFazio Fields on August 19, 20, 21. The fee to be paid and specific fields to be used at DeFazio Park will be at the discretion of the Park and Recreation Director. Mr. Jacob seconded the motion and the motion was approved.

Rocket Lacrosse- Mr. Dollase made a motion to approve Rocket Lacrosse Clinic to be held June 28, 29, 30 and July 1 on DeFazio Park's Brock and Founders fields with a \$5 per person fee to be paid to the field maintenance fund, and with the approval of the High School Athletic Director to insure compliance with MIAA rules. Mr. Robey seconded the motion and the motion was approved. The Memorial Park Trustees will review the request at their meeting, voting on use of the Memorial Park multi-purpose field.

Mr. Dollase made a motion to approve the Rocket Lacrosse Clinic to be held from July 19 - 22 on the DeFazio Park 2 turf fields with a \$5 per person fee to be paid to the field maintenance fund, and with the approval of the High School Athletic Director to insure compliance with MIAA rules. Mr. Robey seconded the motion and the motion was approved.

Needham Soccer Special Event- Mr. Dollase made a motion to approve the Needham Soccer club pre-season clinics to be held August 9-12 and August 16-19 on the DeFazio Park Brock and Founders fields with a \$5 per person fee to be paid to the field maintenance fund, and with the approval of the High School Athletic Director to insure compliance with MIAA rules. Mr. Jacob seconded the motion and the motion was approved.

B. Set Summer Program Fees: Prior to voting, Mrs. Chaston disclosed that she is a member of the Needham Golf Club and Mr. Robey disclosed that his wife is a member. Mr. Robey made a motion to approve the Summer Program Fees as presented by the Director and Assistant Director and listed in Appendix A. Mr. Dollase seconded the motion and the motion was approved. Mrs. Chaston noted the financial loss at the pool and would like to keep an eye on this to help determine the future of Rosemary Pool. Mr. Jacob noted a pattern of the fees staying level for a 2 year period. Mr. Robey would like to add to the revenue and expense report the amount of revenue collected for each program listed on the 5 year spread sheet. Ms. Peirce will include this request in the next report.

5. Discussion Items:

A. Perry Glen Property: Ms. Carey showed a map of the Perry Glen Property which is located near Sportsman/Trout Pond. The Park and Recreation Commission has jurisdiction over this parcel, as it contains part of Rosemary Brook. The Conservation Commission has interest in this property, for the protection of the wetlands, and it is under consideration as a transfer to the Conservation Commission to replace the parcel that the Conservation Commission transferred to the Board of Selectmen at Ridge Hill. The Commission were in consensus that they were willing to consider this transfer of property. Mr. Nadler spoke to Town Manager Kate Fitzpatrick and indicated that the Park and Recreation Commission would like to work towards gaining jurisdiction over the following properties: Avery Field, Perry Park, Greene's Field and Dwight Field. He would also like to have a conversation with the School Committee to discuss the Nike Site.

B. Possible Purchases of Open Space: The Commission reviewed a draft list of properties developed by Mr. Nadler and Ms. Carey, and were in general agreement with the list. Mr. Dollase announced that there is property next to Walker Gordon Field for sale and could be a possible area for field expansion. Mr. Jacob noted there is property on Nehoiden St. for sale that could lend access to the Camp Property. The Commissioners will send a copy of their individual lists to Ms. Carey so she can update the master list of possible open space properties.

C. Out-of-Town Tennis Badge Request: Ms. Carey reviewed the current policy to purchase tennis badges. She recommended selling non resident individual tennis badges at \$60 which is double the price of a resident badge. The recommendation will be put on the agenda of the next Commission meeting.

D. Commission Important Issues-Reports: Mr. Nadler asked Mr. Jacob if the Sports Council had completed the field utilization study. Mr. Jacob indicated it was completed and he will get it for the Commission to review. Mr. Nadler also recommended Mr. Jacob schedule an Athletic Fields Lights Advisory Council meeting soon. DeFazio neighbor Bob Cohen raised concerns about the track

safety lights being on at DeFazio Park on a Sunday morning between 2:00 and 3:00AM. He also stated he does not think the angle of the lights was changed to a downward position and the wattage was not reduced. Mr. Nadler stated the lights were moved downward and the wattage was reduced at a cost of \$5,000. Ms. Carey noted the safety lights have not been turned on, and the timer has not been set for turning them on. She will check with the Parks and Forestry Superintendent to see if the lights were turned on at 2:00AM for any reason. Mr. Cohen also stated the safety lights in the parking lot are too bright and unnecessary. Ms. Carey stated the lights were requested by the Police Department and are a requirement for safe passage and security for teams exiting the fields after dark. Currently DPW staff members are also parking at the DeFazio lot.

E. DeFazio Storage Shed: On Thursday, March 25, 2010 the Director of Public Works Rick Merson, Town Manager Kate Fitzpatrick and Ms. Carey will be looking at the proposed sites for the storage building at DeFazio Park. Many of the Commissioners would like to attend so the meeting will be posted as a Park and Recreation Commission site visit at the Town Clerk's office.

F. Future Meeting Dates: The next Park and Recreation Commission meeting will be held on Monday, April 12, 2010. At that time a decision will be made regarding future meeting dates that conflict with Town Meeting and other Town events.

G. Other Business: Parks and Forestry Superintendent Lance Remsen will be retiring from his position on April 2, 2010. A reception in his honor will take place on April 30, 2010.

Mr. Nadler would like to add DeFazio Park safety lights to the April 12, 2010 Commission meeting agenda.

6. **Adjournment:** Mr. Dollase made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:00PM. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Chaston and the meeting adjourned at 10:00PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen A. Peirce, CPRP, CTRS
Assistant Director