

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

**Minutes of Meeting
Monday, April 12, 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
- ABSENT:** Karen A. Peirce, Assistant Director
- GUESTS:** Mike Retzky, Candidate for Commission
Bob Cohen, DeFazio Neighbor

Mr. Nadler called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM at the Public Services Administration Building.

- 1. Director's Report:** The Commission reviewed the various updates listed in the April 9th Director's Report. Mrs. Chaston asked if the track safety lights would be left on year-round. Ms. Carey said that the current plan is to leave them on throughout the year from dusk to 9 PM, but that weather conditions may alter that. Mr. Dollase reported that the Field Study Committee had wanted to make sure the track was available for residential use year-round as was the case at the former track at Memorial. He also noted that having people on site helped reduce vandalism. Mr. Robey noted that Memorial's lights were on later, but also had other neighborhood lights on from the nearby stores, so 9 PM seemed like a reasonable time to shut off the lights at DeFazio, and Mr. Jacob agreed. Mr. Nadler asked when the parking lot light near the Pavilion would be turned off, and Ms. Carey said that was off at 9:30 PM. The parking lot lights near the DPW are timed differently. DeFazio neighbor Bob Cohen stated that the lights around the track are not similar to parking lot lights as stated at meetings on the project. He believes they are brighter than parking lot lights, and he is concerned that the wattage was not reduced and that the lights were not moved downward as they are not perpendicular to the ground. He restated that the track lights were on at 3 AM on March 14 and were so bright that they lit up his house. He has taken photos, but not developed them, yet. Mr. Nadler noted that Ms. Carey investigated whether the lights had been turned on, and there is no record of their use that night. Mr. Nadler was one of the people present for the test of the lights after the wattage was reduced and the heads were turned down. He noted that they can't go perpendicular as the light will then not be on the track, which is the purpose of

the lights. Mr. Cohen restated that there should not be athletic field lights on the track.

Mr. Nadler asked for an update on park bathrooms. Ms. Carey said that she met with the Building Inspector, and the final authorization should be ready shortly. Mr. Jacob asked about the renovation at Mills, and Ms. Carey said that she will need to meet with Public Facilities on that plan at a later time.

Special Event Requests: Ms. Carey has reviewed the special event requests involving High School coaches with the Athletic Director and he has discussed the rules with each coach that must be followed in order not to violate MIAA rules.

2. Assistant Director's Report: None presented.

3. Action Items:

A. Policy Approval: Non-Resident Tennis Badges: Mr. Dollase made a motion to change the Commission's policy for the sale of non-resident tennis badges, with up to fifty individual tennis badges being available each calendar year at double the fee of the resident individual pass and proof of employment or attendance at a Needham school required. Mr. Jacob seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

B. Acceptance of Gift from Sports Council of Scoreboard at DeFazio Park: Mr. Nadler stated that this gift had been discussed in the past. Mr. Dollase made a motion to accept the gift of a scoreboard at Founders Field at DeFazio from the Needham Sports Council. Mrs. Chaston seconded the motion. Mr. Cohen stated his belief that the scoreboard had not been discussed in public session and that it was not appropriate since taxpayers were paying for it. Mr. Nadler re-stated that the scoreboard was discussed at prior meetings. The vote was taken on the motion and was passed unanimously.

C. Approval to Transfer Perry Glen/Rosemary Glen to Conservation Commission: Mr. Dollase moved that the Park and Recreation Commission deem that the parcel known as Perry Glen or Rosemary Glen on Assessors Map 140, Parcel 1, is no longer needed for "park and recreation" purposes. Mr. Robey seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously. Ms. Carey will notify the Town Manager, and the Board of Selectmen will seek approval at Town Meeting to transfer the parcel from the jurisdiction of the Commission to the jurisdiction of the Conservation Commission. This will fulfill a state requirement to replace an equivalent amount of open space of value to the Conservation Commission after the

approval given for Conservation to transfer the Ridge Hill building envelope to the Board of Selectmen's jurisdiction. The Finance Committee will speak on behalf of this proposal, as not having the transfer would disqualify Needham for applying for some grants.

- D. Request to Transfer Avery Field, Dwight Field and Perry Park from Board of Selectmen to Park and Recreation Commission:** Mr. Nadler reported that he, Mr. Robey and Ms. Carey had met with the Town Manager and Chairman of the Board of Selectmen to make this request, and it has been supported by the Board of Selectmen and the Finance Committee, and will be on the upcoming Special Town Meeting warrant. The Finance Committee will not speak to this at Town Meeting as there is no financial impact. A question was raised about Greene's Field, which is also under the Board of Selectmen, but that discussion would be held in the future based on the final site selection for the Senior Center. Mr. Dollase made a motion to formally request the transfer of Avery Field, Dwight Field and parking lot, and Perry Park from the jurisdiction of the Board of Selectmen to the Park and Recreation Commission. Mr. Jacob seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.
- E. Request: Cub Scout Use of Town Forest:** Ms. Carey noted that the request was to use the parking lot at Town Forest and that all activities would be held at the property owned by the Boy Scouts. Mr. Jacob made a motion to approve the request of the Needham Cub Scouts Pack 7 to use the Town Forest parking lot on Friday May 14-Saturday May 15 (rain date May 21-22) from 5:30 PM to 9:00 AM for overnight parking for the campout at the Boy Scout property. Mr. Dollase seconded the motion.
- F. Request: Parent Talk Barn Babies:** Ms. Carey noted that this request had been approved in the past and there were no concerns. Mr. Dollase made a motion to approve the request of Parent Talk to host the "Barn Babies" event at the DeFazio Tot Lot on Sunday, May 16 from 9 AM to 12:30 PM. Mrs. Chaston seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

Mr. Nadler read a proclamation from the Commission in honor of Mr. Dollase's service on the Commission. Mr. Jacob made a motion to approve the proclamation and Mrs. Chaston seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

4. Discussion Items:

- A. Senior Center Feasibility Study:** Ms. Carey presented a handout of options that was recently provided to the Permanent Public Building

Committee. Mr. Jacob will work with Mrs. Chaston as a liaison to the project, and they both hope to attend the PPBC's upcoming presentation of concepts on April 29th, along with Ms. Carey. Mr. Nadler asked the Commission if they were prepared for Mrs. Chaston and Mr. Jacob to share the Commission's views on the three parcels. After a discussion, it was decided that Mr. Nadler would speak to one of the co-chairs of the Exploratory Committee and that Mrs. Chaston and Mr. Jacob will send him some draft comments for a written statement from the Commission that will be put together for the Commission's review at the next meeting.

- B. Storage Building at DeFazio:** Ms. Carey reviewed pros and cons for the three locations under review at DeFazio: next to Asa Small Field, out along the railroad tracks beyond Warner Diamond, and in the parking lot near the tot lot. Mr. Robey asked for more feedback on why a pre-fabricated building was recommended over a block building. Mr. Jacob asked for more details on installation costs, to see if it helps with the decision making process.
- C. Spring Field Conditions and Scheduling:** Ms. Carey reported that the contractor had completed the work at Warner diamond at DeFazio and that was now officially in use. The sinkhole at McLeod diamond has been backfilled, re-sodded, loamed and seeded. There was no clear reason for the sinkhole, but a manhole cover has been raised to make it easier to scope the underlying pipes in the future. Mr. Jacob noted that fields in other communities seem to have the same problem after the heavy rains. The DPW is preparing to go out to bid on the new netting at the Memorial diamond. The Commission discussed a recent angry e-mail from a High School coach. Mr. Jacob asked if the Memorial diamond would be in use for games. Ms. Carey said that the Trustees are still reviewing that decision, keeping in mind that McLeod had not been operational for a part of the season. Mr. Cohen objected to the layout of the fences at the player benches, as he feels they will not protect the players from foul balls. Ms. Carey will share the concern with the DPW. Ms. Carey reported that the scheduling for the spring had been difficult and there was a lot of tension between the groups. Mr. Nadler will be bringing together the subcommittee of the Trustees and Commission in the near future to come up with some suggested policy changes for the two boards to help alleviate some of the scheduling issues.
- D. Rosemary Pool Pre-Season:** Ms. Carey reported that the Order of Conditions has been approved by the Conservation Commission and the drain-down of the lake will begin after the appeal period is over. There is one resident down stream who may appeal the permit, but without much merit it would likely delay but not stop the draining. The time line is very

tight to do the work and be ready to open by June 21st. Mr. Nadler asked if the pre-season cleaning and painting was required, and Ms. Carey said that it was in order to meet conditions for operating a pool and to do needed annual repairs.

E. Preparation for May ZBA Hearing: The ZBA will meet on May 20th. Mr. Nadler and Ms. Carey will prepare written information, including MUSCO's work this winter, and the request to meet will be submitted by April 26. Mr. Jacob reported that the Field Lights Advisory Committee will be meeting later in the week. Mr. Robey asked if any complaints had been registered since the lights came back on in April, and Ms. Carey reported that there were none.

F. Town Meeting Preparation; Ms. Carey will finalize the list of who will represent the Commission in each of the precinct rooms for the League of Women Voters' warrant meetings. The Commission will now have articles on the Special Town Meeting warrant. Mrs. Chaston will not be available to attend Town Meeting on May 5th.

G. May Meeting Dates: The Commission will move their first May meeting to Monday, May 17th. Ms. Carey will not be able to attend. The second May meeting will remain on Monday, May 24th. Mr. Nadler will not be able to attend.

5. Minutes of Meeting: March 22, 2010 and Site Visit Notes of March 25, 2010: Mr. Dollase made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 22, 2010 meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Robey and approved unanimously. Mrs. Chaston made a motion to approve the Site Visit Notes of March 25, 2010. The motion was seconded by Mr. Dollase and approved unanimously. Mr. Nadler thanked the department for keeping the website updated with the minutes, agendas and director's report.

Ms. Carey will be giving the Democratic State Party permission to hold a unification get-together at Greene's Field on Wednesday morning. They would like to gather together after a tough primary and start working together for the May election. She also reported that someone has approached the Athletic Director about donating a batting cage to Claxton Field for softball use. He will get additional information for the April 26th Commission meeting.

6. Adjournment of Regular Meeting: Mrs. Chaston made a motion at 9:05 PM for the Park and Recreation Commission to move into Executive Session under Exception 6 to consider the purchase, exchange, lease or value of real property. The Commission will not return to open meeting following the Executive Session. Mr. Dollase seconded the motion. Mr. Nadler asked for a roll call vote. Mr.

Park and Recreation Commission
Minutes of Meeting
April 12, 2010
Page 6 of 6

Jacob, Mr. Robey, Mrs. Chaston, Mr. Dollase and Mr. Nadler voted in favor of moving into Executive Session and the regular meeting adjourned at 9:05 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia M. Carey, Director