

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

**MINUTES OF MEETING
September 13, 2010**

Present: Philip V. Robey, Chairman
Thomas M. Jacob, Vice Chairman
Cynthia J. Chaston, Member
Brian S. Nadler, Member
Patricia M. Carey, Director
Michael J. Retzky, Member
Karen A. Peirce, Assistant Director

Guests: Janet Jankowiak, Resident
Jim Healy, Senior Center Exploratory Committee Co-Chair

Mr. Robey called the meeting to order in the Charles River Room at the Public Services Administration Building at 7:02 PM.

1. **Minutes of Meeting – August 23, 2010:** Mrs. Chaston noted that the vote on the batting cage at Claxton was missing. Ms. Carey’s notes showed that the vote was taken and was a unanimous vote in support of the project. She will correct the minutes. Mr. Nadler made a motion to approve the minutes of the August 23, 2010 meeting as amended. Mrs. Chaston seconded the motion and it was approved.
2. **Director’s Report:** Submitted in writing prior to the meeting.
3. **Assistant Director’s Report:** Ms. Peirce noted the summer ended well. Many fall programs are filled at this time and the outdoor activities have already begun. She is meeting with Conservation Agent Patty Barry and Scott Clemens on Tuesday September 14th at the Town Forest. Scott is proposing to build a bog bridge over some wet land areas along the blue trail for his Eagle Scout Project. Ms. Peirce will report on the project at the next Commission meeting. Mr. Nadler acknowledged Ms. Carey and Ms. Peirce for their fine work with the summer staff members at Rosemary Pool and Summer Programs.
4. **Discussion Items:**
 - A. **Commission Goals and Important Issues:** See Appendix A. Mr. Jacob asked about the Rosemary Pool project. Ms. Carey said that there is about \$75,000 available for a study of the pool, but that a scope must be written with the PPBC. Phase 1 would look at the existing conditions and what is needed, and Phase 2 would make recommendations for the future, including whether an alternate site should be reviewed. There was discussion about the need to inform the residents and the Town government officials about the current situation at Rosemary Pool and what could happen if in fact Rosemary Pool is unable to open in 2011. Mr. Robey will review the different options available to inform the public and will revisit this issue at a future meeting.
 - B. **Motorized Vehicles on Walking Trails:** Ms. Carey indicated once “No Motorized Vehicles Allowed” signage is posted along the trails then the Needham Police can begin enforcing the rule. Currently, there is an issue at

Greendale Avenue, and there are frequently issues in the Town Forest. The Park and Recreation Commission members are in support of not having motorized vehicles on walking trails.

- C. Senior Center Feasibility Study:** Jim Healy, Co-chair of the Senior Center Exploratory Committee attended the meeting to update the Commissioners on the progress of the Senior Center Exploratory Committee. There are 5 sites that have been reviewed and they include Ridge Hill, Rosemary Hill, the Emery Grover Building, Needham Heights MBTA parking lot and Greene's Field. Each site has pros and cons that include cost, location, neighborhood congestion, traffic issues, loss of green space and loss of playing fields. On September 16th the SCEC will meet to review the 5 potential sites and determine what site or sites will be recommended to the Board of Selectmen on September 28, 2010.
- D. Capital Budget Requests:** Ms. Carey will update the Capital Budget requests for 2011. She noted that the Cricket House renovation and Rosemary Pool remain on the list. Also listed, is the Newman School renovation and the DeFazio parking lot redesign and paving. Ms. Carey asked for additional suggestions to be added to the list.
- E. Field Permits, Clinics, Special Events- Discussion Points:** Ms. Carey shared the MRPA 2007 Survey of Field Permit Fee for Massachusetts Cities and Towns for review. This information will be useful during the review of Needham field permits, clinics and special event fees.

5. Action Items: None Presented.

6. Topics for Future Agendas: Mr. Robey received a call from a woman who is spear heading a group to build a community center in Needham. They currently have a website and are doing some preliminary research of how to move forward with this project. This topic will be added to a future agenda for discussion.

7. Adjournment: Mr. Nadler made a motion at 8:35 PM to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Chaston and approved. The meeting adjourned at 8:35 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen A. Peirce, CPRP, CTRS
Assistant Director