

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

**MINUTES OF MEETING
September 27, 2010**

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

Guests: Bob Cohen, Resident

Mr. Robey called the meeting to order in the Charles River Room at the Public Services Administration Building at 7:01 PM.

- 1. Minutes of Meeting – September 13, 2010:** Mr. Nadler made a motion to approve the minutes of the September 13, 2010 meeting. Mrs. Chaston seconded the motion and it was approved.
- 2. Director’s Report:** Submitted in writing prior to the meeting. Ms. Carey gave an update on the progress of the dugouts at the Asa Small Diamond. Mr. Nadler asked about the progress of the storage building at DeFazio Park. Ms. Carey stated the Town Engineer is looking at the location of the storage building in the outfield of Warner Field close to the track to see what modifications are needed. No further information is available at this time.
- 3. Assistant Director’s Report:** Ms. Peirce attended the Senior Center Health and Fitness Fair today to share recreation opportunities for seniors. On September 23, 2010 Ms. Peirce met with Barry Nectow and Sheila Hamwey from the School Department to discuss sharing the newly purchased school buses for field trips. One of the benefits of using the School Department vehicles is the cost would be significantly less than the current fees paid to Connolly Bus Co. Ms. Peirce acknowledged the Healthy Needham Calendars that were distributed to all of the Commissioners. She will attend a meeting on October 4th to plan and organize the Needham 300 Kick Off Weekend/ Old Fashion Field Day. Park and Recreation will provide recreation supplies and sports equipment for the event. Ms. Peirce shared the Eagle Scout Project proposed by Scott Clemens to build a bog bridge that will be an extension of an existing bog bridge along the Blue Trail in the Needham Town Forest. The Park and Recreation Commission will vote on this project at the next meeting.
- 4. Discussion Items:**
 - A. Senior Center Feasibility Study:** The Senior Center Exploratory Committee is meeting this evening. Mr. Nadler indicated he does not believe there would be adequate space for a baseball diamond to share Greene’s Field if chosen for the Senior Center. He noted that if Greene’s Field is listed as one of the recommendations then the Park and Recreation Commissioners should voice

concern about losing the green space at Greene's Field. The SCEC will make the committee recommendations to the Board of Selectmen on September 28th.

- B. Rosemary Pool:** Ms. Carey reported that the decision regarding the appeal should be received this week. The Commissioners reviewed the CBI Rosemary Pool Existing Conditions Report. Ms. Carey updated the recommendations to indicate projects that have been completed, partially completed and not completed.
- C. Commission Goals and Important Issues:** Mr. Jacob will contact the Finance Committee Chairman to introduce himself as the Park and Recreation Commission liaison to the Finance Committee.
- D. FY'12 Budgets: Capital, Budget Pro Forma:** The Commissioners reviewed the FY 2012 – FY 2016 Pro Forma included in the Commission packet. Mr. Nadler suggested the Commissioners discuss, review and rate the capital projects in order of importance. The Commissioners and Ms. Carey will rate the projects and present their list at a future Commission meeting.
The Capital Projects to review are:
- Purchase of Land
 - Cricket Building
 - Rosemary Pool
 - Camp Property Building improvements
 - Parking area at Mills Field
 - Newman Athletic Fields
 - Parking at DeFazio Park
 - Field Study Committee Funding
 - Playground Equipment replacement at Greene's Field
 - Playground Equipment replacement at Walker Gordon Field
 - Equipment replacement at the Fit Trail at Ridge Hill
- E. Field Permits, Clinics, Special Events- Discussion Points:** The Commissioners reviewed the Town of Wellesley Department of Public Works Framework for Playing fields Usage and Priorities. Prior to the Commission meeting Mr. Nadler and Ms. Carey met with Memorial Park Trustees Chairman Dave DiCicco to discuss guidelines for a joint policy for field permits, clinics and special events at parks.
- F. Needham 300:** Prior to the Commission meeting Mr. Robey met with Town staff members to share the Needham 300 events calendar and to coordinate resources for the Kick Off Weekend. All events will be listed in the program book which will be distributed to all Needham residences.
- G. Feedback from the Traffic Management Advisory Committee:** Ms. Carey attended the Traffic Management Advisory Committee meeting to talk about unsafe parking at parks and field locations. Although she has been working with the sports groups to educate parents and coaches about safe parking there are still

areas of concern. Ms. Carey also sat in on the discussion of a complaint from a resident requesting speed bumps be installed to prevent cars from speeding on Dwight Road past Dwight Field when children are present. The Traffic Management Advisory Committee recommends putting up cones, portable signs or “Children at Play” figures during games. The Park and Recreation Commissioners suggested trimming back some of the brush and trees along the field side of Dwight Road for increased visibility. Another area of concern is parking on George Aggott Road across from DeFazio Field. The Traffic Management Advisory Committee recommends advertising through an email campaign to inform patrons that fees may need to be increased if a police detail is required to enforce parking. Mr. Jacob will look into signs indicating “no ball game parking” for George Aggott Road.

5. Action Items:

A. Special Event Request: Soccer Club: The Needham Soccer Club submitted a request to use the Carleton Pavilion on October 2, 2010 to sell food, drinks, and T-shirts during the Boys Needham High School Soccer Catholic League Challenge Tournament. Mr. Jacob made a motion to approve the request from the Needham Soccer Club to use the Carleton Pavilion on October 2, 2010. Mr. Nadler seconded the motion and the motion was approved.

6. Topics for Future Agendas: Capital Projects and Basketball Court Renovations

7. Adjournment: Mr. Nadler made a motion at 8:31 PM to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Jacob and approved. The meeting adjourned at 8:31 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen A. Peirce, CPRP, CTRS
Assistant Director