

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

**MINUTES OF MEETING
October 25, 2010**

- PRESENT:** Philip V. Robey, Chairman
Thomas M. Jacob, Vice Chairman
Cynthia J. Chaston, Member
Brian S. Nadler, Member
Michael J. Retzky, Member
Karen A. Peirce, Assistant Director
- ABSENT:** Patricia M. Carey, Director
- GUESTS:** Tad Staley, Needham Bikes
Bob Cohen, Resident

Mr. Robey called the meeting to order in the Charles River Room at the Public Services Administration Building at 7:00 PM.

- 1. Minutes of Meeting – October 12, 2010:** Mr. Nadler made a motion to approve the minutes of the October 12, 2010 meeting. Mrs. Chaston seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.
- 2. Minutes of Executive Session – October 12, 2010:** Mrs. Chaston made a motion to approve the minutes of the October 12, 2010 meeting. Mr. Retzky seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.
- 3. Director’s Report:** Submitted in writing prior to the meeting. Mr. Nadler expressed concern regarding the condition of the fields at Pollard and Newman after the school construction projects are completed. Mr. Robey will contact Mr. George Kent from the PPBC to inquire about the plans for the fields after the construction is completed. Mrs. Chaston suggested a Commission member serve as a liaison to the PPBC so the field concerns are presented to the committee.
- 4. Assistant Director’s Report:** Ms. Peirce indicated the Spooky Walk was a huge success under the direction of Recreation Supervisor Nicole DiCicco. She noted that to reduce the waiting list she and Nicole will work with the NBA to restructure the event to be able to increase the number of children participating. The Ice Skating Program began last week with approximately 150 children enrolled. Currently she is working with Nicole on Winter/Spring program planning.

5. Discussion Items:

- A. Presentation: Needham Bikes:** Tad Staley founder of Needham Bikes shared a Power Point presentation highlighting the Bay Colony Rail Trail. The non profit Bay Colony Rail Trail was created in 2009 to work to create a bike/pedestrian rail trail from Needham Junction south through Dover to Medfield and from Needham Heights north to Newton Highlands. In order to begin this project the MBTA would need to lease the property to a government entity. Recently the Needham Bank donated \$10,000 to help support the rail trail. Also noted was a company called the Iron Horse Preservation Society. The objective of the organization is to convert abandoned railroad tracks into usable recreational trails for communities at no cost. Mr. Robey suggested speaking with Ms. Carey about using CPC funds to help support the trail. He also suggested Mr. Staley keep in touch with the Ms. Carey as he moves forward with this project. Mr. Robey and the Commissioners thanked Mr. Staley for his presentation and look forward to hearing more about this project.
- B. Special town Meeting Preview:** Mr. Robey asked if any of the Commissioners would be interested in presenting at the Special Town Meeting on Article 7 General By Law/Regulation of Dogs. The Commissioners questioned why school property was not listed in Article 7. Mr. Nadler will contact School Committee Chairperson Connie Barr to see why school property was not included and he will also ask for a clarification regarding future use of the Nike Site for a dog park. Mr. Robey asked if Park and Recreation should be taking the lead on creating a dog park. Mr. Nadler would like the Park and Recreation Commission to be included in any dog park discussions. Mr. Jacob indicated new signage at DeFazio and Memorial Parks will be necessary if Article 7 is passed. Mr. Robey will be prepared to answer any questions regarding Article 7 at the Special Town Meeting.
- C. Senior Center Feasibility Study:** Mr. Jacob indicated the Community Center group attended the Sports Council meeting asking questions about fundraising strategies for the Field of Dreams project. A member of the Community Center Group stated that a Community Center will be placed on the master plan with assistance from Ms. Carey and Mr. Robey. Mr. Robey noted he was unaware of this action. The Sports Council recommended the Community Center Group begin doing research to learn about other community facilities and projects. Funding and finding a location will be 2 major areas of research for this group.

- D. Rosemary Pool:** Mr. Nadler recommended contacting the Wellesley Recreation Department to inquire about letting Needham residents use Morse Pond for the summer of 2011 as an alternative swimming location if Rosemary Pool is unable to open. Ms. Peirce suggested contacting Newton Park and Recreation also as they have two swimming facilities, Crystal Lake and Gath Pool. Mr. Nadler also heard that there has been discussion of building a swimming complex at the Ridge Hill property. Mrs. Chaston will contact the Conservation Commission to learn more about this proposal.
- E. FY'12 Operating and Capital:** Ms. Carey submitted the FY'12 Operating and Capital Budgets on October 22. Mr. Nadler stated he would like to have a better understanding of the actual revenue vs the actual expenses for Rosemary Pool and programs. Mrs. Chaston mentioned that she had created a spread sheet about a year ago and would be willing to review and update the revenue and expenses to present at a future Commission meeting. Mr. Jacob indicated it is the responsibility of all the Commissioners to have more information regarding the Rosemary Pool expenses so they can be informed and prepared to answer any questions.
- F. Field Permits, Clinics, Special Events- Discussion Points:** Mr. Nadler indicated that he is on target for the end of November to present a preliminary proposal regarding field permits, clinics, and special events to the Park & Recreation Commission for discussion.
- G. Needham 300:** Mr. Robey reviewed the plans for the Kick Off Weekend on November 5, 6, and 7, 2010. Activities will include a Rockets Football game, the screening of a film highlighting 100 years of Needham Football, an Old Fashioned Field Day, The Grand Promenade, Needham Market, Time Capsule Opening, and an Old Fashioned Ice Cream Social. Everyone is encouraged to attend.

5. Action Items:

- A. Special Event Request: Cub Scout Pack 8 Rocket Launch:** Mr. Nadler made a motion to approve the special event request from Cub Scout Pack 8 to host a Rocket launch on October 31, 2010 at Claxton Field from 1:30-3:30PM with a rain date on November 7. Mr. Jacob seconded the motion and the motion was approved unanimously.

- 6. Topics for Future Agendas:** The Sports Council is reviewing equipment storage needs to present to the Commission. Mr. Jacob recommended adding sports equipment storage as a topic for a future agenda. Mr. Robey requested an update on the status of the DeFazio track storage trailer at a future meeting. Mr. Retsky recommended a review of the outdoor basketball facilities be added as a topic for a future agenda.

- 7. Adjournment:** Mr. Jacob made a motion at 8:45PM to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Chaston and approved. The meeting adjourned at 8:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen A. Peirce, CPRP, CTRS
Assistant Director