

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

**MINUTES OF MEETING
March 14, 2011**

- PRESENT:** Philip V. Robey, Chairman
Cynthia J. Chaston, Member
Brian S. Nadler, Member
Michael J. Retzky, Member
Patricia M. Carey, Director
- ABSENT:** Thomas M. Jacob, Vice Chairman
Karen A. Peirce, Assistant Director
- GUESTS:** Edward Olsen, Superintendent of Parks and Forestry
Bob Cohen, DeFazio Neighbor

The meeting convened at 6:30 PM in the Inner Space meeting room at the Pollard Middle School.

1. **Minute of Meeting of February 28, 2011:** Mrs. Chaston made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 28, 2011 meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Nadler and the motion was unanimously approved.
2. **Director's Report:** Mrs. Chaston asked for an update on the 174 Charles River Street project. Ms. Carey reported that the house and basement have been removed. There are still projects to be done, including removal of the fence between the properties, removal of some trees, and grading the area to match the existing park. She noted that a request for renovation work at Walker-Gordon Field will hopefully be presented to Town Meeting in May for funding, and if so, the two projects will be bid together. Parks and Forestry Superintendent Edward Olsen noted that bidding the projects together could be a cost saving! Mr. Robey asked how preparations were going for the fields for the spring season, and if there had been other groups using the fields before opening. Ms. Carey said that only the one group had started early, at this point, and that most other groups seemed to be waiting. The snow has still not melted in areas, and there is a large quantity in the DeFazio parking lot that the DPW is working on melting and removing. Mr. Olsen has met with the Needham High Athletic Director and track coaches. They have asked if the discus cage could be moved in a slightly different direction. Ms. Carey said that shouldn't be an issue, as long as it is set up in a safe manner. Mr. Olsen was also asked if the javelin area could be moved

to Healy Field. The consensus from the Commission was that it remain somewhere on Warner Field, in the corner of the park, for safety reasons.

3. Assistant Director's Report: None presented.

4. Discussion Items:

A. Field Scheduling: Spring/Summer Update: Ms. Carey has been working with Mr. Jacob, and most of the major conflicts are worked out, so it's just a matter of getting all the calendar information updated.

B. Rosemary Pool: The drawdown of the lake will begin in early April. Ms. Carey and DPW are monitoring the weather conditions, and at this time, there is still some ice on the lake which needs to be melted prior to any drawdown.

C. DeFazio Storage Building: Mr. Olsen updated the Commission on the research into the storage building at DeFazio, primarily for use by Needham High for the track equipment. DPW Engineering had given him some research on the estimated costs for the building in the outfield area of Warner diamond (Plan A), and as a comparison, adjacent to the Carleton Pavilion (Plan B). Mr. Olsen refined some of the estimates, but Plan A would likely exceed the available funds. The Plan A concept has additional costs, as in essence a "temporary roadway" needs to be created to handle moving the heavy machinery across the outfield with special matting. There would also be a cost to renovating the outfield area, and the field would shut down for a period of time. Plan A would also have a limited time frame for installation, as the ground would have to be very dry or frozen, so installation would likely be late August or early winter. The other costs between the two plans are similar, and Plan B can be installed at any time. Mr. Nadler noted that a final decision should be based on several criteria, and that costs shouldn't be the only criteria. He asked if the building in Plan B could be installed lower into the ground. Ms. Carey said that the garage door needed a specific height to handle the track equipment, and Mr. Retzky said that it could create drainage problems. Mrs. Chaston expressed concern with the cost of Plan A being greater than the funds available. Mr. Retzky asked if a better concept plan could be shown, with a true-to-life view of the building. Mr. Robey expressed his concerns with Plan B and aesthetics. Mr. Olsen and Ms. Carey will work on gathering additional information to continue the discussion at the next meeting.

D. Community Center Concept: Mr. Jacob and Ms. Carey met with representatives of the group looking to create a community center in Needham. Ms. Carey had provided them with a survey used by the prior Community Center Study Committee and with contacts in other

communities. A summary of their findings was shared with the Commission.

- E. Parking Issues:** Ms. Carey shared a memo from the Traffic Management Advisory Committee regarding concerns about parking on High Rock Street for use of Cusick Diamond on Central Avenue. The Commission agreed that the parking and crossing Central Avenue was a concern. Ms. Carey reminded them that there were several parks with similar parking issues, and that the groups with permits would need to assist in solving the problems.
- 5. Action Items:**
- A. Special Event Request: Bay State Instructional Football Clinic:** The Commission discussed the issues related to this request, but determined they were not prepared to vote on the request and will address it at their next meeting.
- 6. Topics for Future Agendas:** none presented
- 7. Adjournment:** Mr. Nadler made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:25 PM. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Chaston, and the meeting adjourned at 7:25 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia M. Carey, CPRP
Director