

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

**MINUTES OF MEETING
April 11, 2011**

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, DeFazio Neighbor
Ellie Devlin, Resident, Past Park and Recreation Commissioner
David DiCicco, Memorial Park Trustee
Bill Dermody, Resident, Past Park and Recreation Commissioner
Paul Robey, Resident
Jim Healy, Resident

The meeting convened at 7:08 PM in the Charles River Room located in the Public Services Administration Building.

1. **Minute of Meeting of March 28, 2011:** Mr. Nadler made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 28, 2011 meeting. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Chaston. Mrs. Chaston noted that in section D on page 3 the notes stated the annual re-organization meeting will take place at the Commission meeting following the Town election. Ms. Carey noted that after further discussion a subsequent decision was made to have the re-organization meeting on April 11, 2011 prior to the Town election. Mrs. Chaston made a friendly amendment to clarify that decision and the amended motion was unanimously approved.
2. **Director's Report:** Submitted in writing prior to the meeting. Mr. Robey thanked Ms. Carey for her kind words written in the Director's report. Mr. Jacob requested that the new signage for dogs at parks be placed in a visible area and be easy to read.
3. **Assistant Director's Report:** Ms. Peirce reported the Summer Brochure is in the final proofing stage and should be sent to the printer next week. Ms. Peirce met with Senior Golf Program Coordinator Andy Dorsey and Needham Golf Club President Joe Gillen to discuss the modifications that will be made in order to start

the Senior Golf and Adult Golf Programs on May 3rd as scheduled. A limited number of carts will be available and the golfers will tee off from the 4th hole until the Needham Golf Club Clubhouse is completed. It is scheduled to be completed by the end of May. Ms. Peirce and Ms. Carey are interviewing lifeguard applicants and will be finalizing the hiring of the pool staff by the beginning of May.

4. Discussion Items:

- A. Field Scheduling/Maintenance Update:** Ms. Carey reported that most of the sports groups were able to begin using the fields last week. The schedule seems to be working so far. There was a complaint about parking at Avery Field and the user groups were notified. There was some discussion regarding the condition of the parking lot at DeFazio Field. The DPW has worked to try and smooth out the surface once this season and will be repeating again in the near future.
- B. Trails Update:** Ms. Peirce reported that a sub committee of the Eco Explorer team met with Parks and Forestry Superintendent Ed Olsen and Conservation Agent Patty Barry on March 29th to review what needs to be done before the Eco Explorer Trail Clean Up at Mitchell Woods on May 12th. Ms. Peirce is coordinating 2 walks for the Needham Springs into Action week to be held May 7-13th. On May 10th Needham resident Ed Demarias will lead a walk around Rosemary Lake. He and Ms. Peirce walked the property on April 5th to prepare for the walk. She is also organizing a Hike for Tykes at Ridge Hill on May 12th. This program is geared for preschool age children and pre school program directors in Needham have been invited. Ms. Peirce was invited by Needham Bikes Coordinator Tad Staley to walk from Needham Junction to Dover Center along the proposed Rail Trail on April 3rd. Members of Needham Bikes and people interested in having a Rail Trail attended the walk. The same day she also walked a few trails with the Conservation Commission members to prepare for the upcoming Trails Day on April 30th. She reminded the Commissioners about the upcoming outdoor events in April, Trail Day at Ridge Hill on April 30th and the Needham 300 Clean Up Day on April 23rd.
- C. Rosemary Pool:** Ms. Carey reported that the annual draining of Rosemary Lake should begin in about a week. New this year, Ms. Carey was required to contact the Division of Fisheries and Wildlife to inform them about the draining of Rosemary Lake. After speaking to them they did not have any concerns. At this time, they have not put anything in writing, but Ms. Carey will request it if it is needed for future proceedings.

5. Action Items:

- A. Letter to Joint Committee on Community Development and Small Business re: CPA Legislation:** Ms. Carey indicated that Memorial Park Trustee Mr. DiCicco will attend the meeting at the Statehouse on April 13th to speak on behalf of the CPA. Mr. Robey thanked Mr. DiCicco for speaking on behalf of Needham in support of the CPA language change. Ms. Carey noted that it was through the efforts of Mr. Robey to revisit putting the CPA on the ballot in Needham that it was approved in 2004. The Commission agreed to send the letter as written, by consensus.
- B. Meeting Conflicts: April 25th and May 9th:** The Commissioners will meet on April 25th at 6:30PM at the Pollard Middle School prior to the League of Women Voters meeting. The May 9th meeting will be cancelled and rescheduled on Monday, May 16th at the Park and Recreation Office..
- 6. Topics for Future Agendas:** none presented. During this time Mr. Jacob recognized Mr. Robey for almost 20 years of service as a Park and Recreation Commissioner for the Town of Needham. He read a proclamation highlighting his accomplishments. The Commission members, staff and guests had the opportunity to recognize Mr. Robey and thank him for his generous offer of his time and all his service as a Park and Recreation Commission member for 18 ½ years.
- 7. Adjournment:** Mr. Jacob made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 PM. The motion was seconded by Mr. Nadler, and the meeting adjourned at 8:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen A. Peirce, CPRP
Assistant Director