

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

**MINUTES OF MEETING
June 13, 2011**

PRESENT: Thomas M. Jacob, Chairman
Michael J. Retzky, Vice Chairman
Cynthia J. Chaston, Member
Brian S. Nadler, Member
Andrea L. Shorthose, Member
Patricia M. Carey, Director
Karen A. Peirce, Assistant Director

GUESTS: Bob Cohen, DeFazio Neighbor

The meeting convened at 7:00 PM in the Charles River Room located in the Public Services Administration Building.

1. **Minutes of Meeting of May 16, 2011:** Mrs. Chaston made a motion to approve the minutes of the May 16, 2011 meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Retzky. Mr. Jacob recommended changing the second sentence under the Director's Report to read: *Mr. Jacob indicated a stone chip material would be installed by DPW at DeFazio park parking lot as a low cost environmentally sound alternative to pavement.* The amended motion was approved.
2. **Director's Report:** Submitted in writing prior to the meeting. Ms. Carey announced the new signs have been posted at DeFazio and Memorial Parks.
3. **Assistant Director's Report:** Ms. Peirce reported she is spending most of her time at Rosemary Pool training staff and getting ready for opening day on June 20th. She attended the ADA training provided by the Town on May 24th. She attended a Rail Trail meeting on May 31st. The Senior Billiards luncheon was held on June 3rd at the Stephen Palmer Center. All the members attended the luncheon and awards were presented.
4. **Discussion Items:** Discussed later in the meeting
 - A. **Spring Special Event Re-Cap:**
 - B. **Rosemary Pool:**
 - C. **Trails Update:**
 - D. **Walker-Gordon Renovations:**
 - E. **Nike Site:**
 - F. **Lifelong Community Center:**
 - G. **Parking Issues:**

- H. Projects with DPW:**
 - I. Commission goals and Important Issues:**
 - J. Draft Policies:**
- 5. Action Items:**
- A. Sign Request: Needham 300:** Mr. Nadler made a motion to approve the request from the Needham 300 Committee to locate signs on the backstop at Greene's Field and on the Claxton Field fence from June 22-July 4, 2011. Mr. Retzky seconded the motion and the motion was approved.
 - B. Planning Board: School Department Parking Request:** Mr. Nadler made a motion to approve the request from the School Department to obtain permission to park cars at Claxton Field (50 spots) and Dwight Field (15 spots) on March 16, 17, and 18, 2012 to accommodate the Needham High School musical event at the Newman Auditorium during the Newman School renovations. Mr. Retzky seconded the motion and the motion was approved.
 - C. Clinic Requests: Fast Pitch:** A Special Event Request was received from Needham Fast Pitch to host the following:
 - Hitting/ Skills Clinics on July 11-15, 2011 9:00-12:00 Claxton #1 & 2
 - Hitting/ Skills Clinics on August 1-5, 2011 9:00-12:00 Claxton #1 & 2
 - Hitting/ Skills Clinics on August 22-26, 2011 9:00-12:00 Claxton #1 & 2Mrs. Chaston made a motion to approve the Hitting/Skills Clinics on the dates and times as listed with a fee of \$5 per day per player and an additional \$5 per day per non resident per clinic. Ms. Carey indicated under the Health Department regulations running a clinic for 5 days would qualify the clinic as a camp, and FastPitch would need to be permitted by the Health Department and follow MA camp regulations. Mr. Nadler amended the motion to require proof from Needham Fast Pitch that they would only be providing a 4 day clinic or provide a permit to operate a camp from the Needham Health Department. Mr. Retzky seconded the motion as amended and the motion was approved.
 - D. Special Event Request: Boys Lacrosse:** Mr. Nadler made a motion to approve the request from Boy's Lacrosse to host the Eastern Mass High School Senior All Star Game on June 19, 2011 from 2-4PM at Founders Field located at DeFazio Park. Mr. Retzky seconded the motion and the motion was approved. The Commission noted the request was made very late and in the future must be submitted more than a few days in advance to be considered.
 - E. Commission's Summer Meeting Schedule: June, July, August:** The Commissioners chose to meet on the following dates during the summer of 2011:

June 27, 2011 7:00PM
July 11, 2011 6:30PM
August 15, 2011 6:30PM

4. **Discussion Items:**
- A. **Spring Special Event Re-Cap:** Ms. Carey reported that most of the spring special events have gone very well. The Soccer Club's annual tournament basically went well, but there was an issue with some stress to the turf on Warner Field, due to the use of the diamond for the tournament and the irrigation having been turned off for the weekend at the request of the Soccer Club. Ms. Carey hasn't been part of the discussions between DPW and Soccer Club, but it doesn't appear that the Soccer Club will assist with funding the repairs. Mr. Jacob will talk to the two groups. Ms. Carey noted that a better system is needed for scheduling High School sports and youth soccer and lacrosse during post season play. When the High School needs the fields for post season play it sometimes burdens one youth team unfairly. Mr. Jacob suggested holding some slots for post season play. Memorial Park approved a 50 inning game organized by the High School Baseball Coach. Due to the rain the coach was asked to refrain from using the diamond which was not completely done which led to some damage.
 - B. **Rosemary Pool:** Ms. Carey noted the Rosemary Pool water sample will be taken to the lab in Worcester for testing on June 14th with results announced on Friday June 17th.
 - C. **Trails Update:** Ms. Peirce reported Ned Cooley completed his Eagle Scout Project at Ridge Hill on June 5th. His project was to install a new kiosk at the head of the North Trail and he cleared the Chestnut and North Trails. Ms. Peirce attended the last EPA Eco Explorers meeting which concluded the first year of the grant. She will be working on a project at the Hillside School to create an outdoor learning space behind the media center. Ms. Peirce was invited to visit the Danvers Rail Trail but was unable to attend. Tad Staley from Needham Bikes met with Town Manager Kate Fitzpatrick, Chairman of the Board of Selectmen Moe Handle and Selectman Jerry Wasserman to discuss the Town's involvement in creating the Bay Colony Rail Trail in Needham. Ms. Peirce will keep the Commission informed on any rail trail activity.
 - D. **Walker-Gordon Renovations:** Ms. Carey is working on a plan for bidding to improve the Charles River property and the Walker Gordon property. She reviewed some of the concepts under discussion.
 - E. **Nike Site:** Ms. Carey reviewed the license agreement between the Town and the Needham Community Farm.

- F. Lifelong Community Center:** To be discussed at a future meeting.
 - G. Parking Issues:** Ms. Carey indicated parking issues at Cusick Field on Central Ave. The neighbors have met with the Traffic Management Advisory Committee to discuss safety issues. It was suggested a boardwalk be placed on the path from Newman School parking lot to the field to encourage groups to park in the school lot and walk on the path to the field.
 - H. Projects with DPW:** Parks and Forestry superintendant Ed Olsen is scheduled to begin the off-season maintenance projects on the multipurpose fields.
 - I. Commission Goals and Important Issues:** Mr. Nadler asked that liaison roles reflect that Ms. Shorthose is liaison to the School Committee.
 - J. Draft Policies:** Mr. Nadler announced the Memorial Park Trustees will discuss the draft policies at their next meeting. The Park and Recreation Commission will vote on the Draft Policies at the next meeting.
- 6. Topics for Future Agendas:** None Presented.
- 7. Adjournment of Regular Meeting:** Mr. Nadler made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:14 PM. The motion was seconded by Mr. Retzky, and the meeting adjourned at 8:14 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen A. Peirce, CPRP
Assistant Director