

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

**MINUTES OF MEETING  
October 24, 2011**

**PRESENT:** 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

**ABSENT:** Tom Jacob, Chairman

**GUESTS:** Bob Cohen, Resident  
Melissa Padeni, American Cancer Society, Relay for Life  
Mark Goldberg, Town meeting Member, American Cancer  
Society, Relay for Life Volunteer

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

1. **Minutes of Meeting of October 11, 2011:** Mr. Nadler made a motion to approve the minutes of the October 11, 2011 meeting. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Chaston and the motion was approved.
2. **Director's Report:** Submitted in writing prior to the meeting.
3. **Assistant Director's Report:** Ms. Peirce attended the Moving Together Workshop in Boston to learn more about Rail Trails. She helped at the 5<sup>th</sup> Quarter, a social event hosted for high school students after the Friday night football game. The Needham 300 Town wide clean up day was held on Saturday, October 15th. Thirty people attended and 32 bags of trash were collected. Adult badminton, basketball and volleyball programs began last week. The 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Spooky Walk was held on October 22<sup>nd</sup> and 300 children and parents attended.
4. **Discussion Items:**
  - A. **Special Events Discussion:** The Commissioners reviewed the list provided by Ms. Carey of all the spring, summer and fall 2011 special events. Each individual request is worthy of approval but when reviewed collectively the data indicates overwhelming scheduling difficulties. Factors to consider include the location of the special event and the time of year. Some special events displace more groups because of where and when they are held. The Commissioners questioned whether special events

should be secondary and not take precedence over regularly scheduled activities. Mark Goldberg, Town Meeting Member and Relay for Life volunteer presented a case for the use of the DeFazio Complex for the 2012 Relay for Life. The Newman School location has been used for the past few years but is unavailable due to the school construction project. Mr. Goldberg is willing to work with the DeFazio user groups by setting up individual tents after the teams are finished for the day. Mr. Goldberg and Ms. Padeni both noted the success of the Relay for Life has been in part due to the Needham students who have taken on many of the organizing responsibilities. Over 1,000 people have attended the Needham Relay for Life making it one of the most successful American Cancer Society fundraisers in the area. Mr. Goldberg and Ms. Padeni would be willing to be flexible on the time and the dates if they were able to use the DeFazio Complex for the event this spring. Mr. Retzky thanked Mr. Goldberg and Ms. Padeni for attending the meeting and noted the Commissioners would review the request and a vote will be taken at the next Commission meeting.

- B. Field Scheduling Update:** Ms. Carey is currently waiting to hear from the three groups that were having scheduling difficulties.
- C. Rosemary Pool Study:** On Thursday, October 13, 2011 Ms. Carey, Mr. Retzky, Mr. Jacob, Board of Selectmen Chairman Moe Handel, Selectmen Vice Chairman Jerry Wasserman, Community Preservation Committee Chairman Mark Gluesing, and Town Manager Kate Fitzpatrick met to discuss various projects, including the next steps for the Rosemary Pool study. Mr. Nadler would like to have a discussion before the November Special Town Meeting and have the Rosemary Pool Feasibility Study begin in the spring of 2012 and completed in 2013. Ms. Carey indicated the group would meet again after the Special Town Meeting to develop a time line for the Feasibility Study. Ms. Carey and Ms. Fitzpatrick will meet to review statistical information to help make an informed decision as to how to move forward with the Rosemary Pool Feasibility Study.
- D. Cricket Building Feasibility:** Ms. Carey will be conducting a tour of the Cricket Building with representatives from Bargmann, Hendrie and Archetype this week, to begin the feasibility study process.
- E. Rail Trail Feasibility:** Ms. Carey reported that the Board of Selectmen would like Park and Recreation to take the lead on the Rail Trail project. Dover has scheduled a meeting this evening with Iron Horse, a company that removes the rails and creates a surface for the trail at a huge cost savings for the Town. Later this week, Ms. Carey will be meeting with Tad Staley of Needham Bikes and Selectmen representatives from Dover and Medfield to discuss this project. Initially The Bay Colony Railroad

would have to release their lease to the MBTA and then the MBTA would lease the rail line to Needham, Medfield and Dover. Ms. Carey noted this project may possibly be eligible for CPC funding. Ms. Carey stated at the last Trails Advisory Group meeting, Friends of Woods and Waters clerk Sam Bass Warner presented a proposal to interview abutters of the Charles River about creating a Charles River Trail. It's possible his interview process would be more relevant to the Rail Trail project that has more detailed information to share with abutters.

- F. Dog Park Discussion:** When meeting with the Selectmen representatives, Mr. Jacob, Mr. Retzky and Ms. Carey discussed how to move forward with a discussion about dog parks. The Commission will discuss how to create a working group to put together ideas and recommendations. Ms. Peirce will assist with coordinating this project with guidance and direction from the Commissioners and Ms. Carey.
- G. Greene's Field Playground Update:** Ms. Carey reported that the committee has met with a representative of one playground committee and have scheduled meetings with two additional companies. Approximately \$150,000 will need to be raised for the playground structure. A subcommittee will begin strategizing for a fundraising plan.
- H. Trails Projects:** At their recent meeting, the Trails Advisory Group had a presentation from Planning Board member Sam Bass Warner and Planning Director Lee Newman about a proposal to interview all the Charles River abutters to get their opinion about creating a trail along the Charles River. As noted above, Ms. Carey suggested his resources be diverted from the Charles River Trail to help with the Rail Trail project instead. Progress has been made on the first draft of the Trail Steward brochure, manual and application. Corrections will be made and presented at the next meeting. It was noted that a Determination of Applicability form would need to be submitted to the Conservation Commission by Ms. Peirce for any trail work done by Trail Stewards or groups in Town. Ms. Peirce has met with the Hillside principal and two teachers to discuss the Eco Explorer Project to create an outdoor learning area behind the Hillside School.
- I. Operating and Capital Budget Review:** Ms. Carey indicated 4 trail projects are listed on the Capital Plan along with the request for design funding for the Cricket building. Information will be provided at the next meeting.

- J. Draft Policies:** Ms. Carey is waiting to hear back from the Athletic Director Micah Hauben and High School Principal Jonathan Pizzi about the draft to review prior to the draft policies public hearing. The public hearing will be scheduled at the second Commission meeting in November.
- 5. Action Items:**
- A. **Special Event Request: New England Orienteering Club:** The New England Orienteering Club requested approval to host a special event on Sunday November 6, 2011 from 10:00AM-4:00PM at the Needham Town Forest. Mrs. Chaston made a motion to approve the request from the New England Orienteering Club to host a special event on November 6, 2011 from 10:00AM-4:00PM at the Needham Town Forest providing they submit a certificate of insurance prior to the event. Ms. Shorthose seconded the motion and the motion was approved.
- 6. Topics for Future Agendas:**  
DeFazio Storage Unit Update  
List of Park and Recreation appointees to other Town committees  
Relay for Life Action Item
- 7. Adjournment of Meeting:** Mr. Nadler made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:00PM. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Chaston and the meeting adjourned at 9:00PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen A. Peirce, CPRP  
Assistant Director