

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

**MINUTES OF MEETING  
April 9, 2012**

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

**ABSENT:** Andrea L. Shorthose, Member

**GUESTS:** Bob Cohen, DeFazio Neighbor  
Dave DiCicco, Memorial Park Trustee  
Carey Stenberg, Rocket and 128 Lacrosse

The meeting convened at 7:30 PM in the Charles River Room located in the Public Services Administration Building.

1. **Minutes of Meeting of March 26, 2012:** Mr. Nadler made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 26, 2012 meeting. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Chaston and the motion was approved.
2. **Director's Report:** Ms. Carey thanked Mr. Nadler for 6 years of busy and successful service as a member of the Park and Recreation Commission. Mr. Nadler thanked Ms. Carey and Ms. Peirce for all of their efforts. Mrs. Chaston asked why the light bulb at DeFazio track would not be repaired until after July 1. Ms. Carey indicated the DPW contract for the lighting company is out of money and the replacement of the light bulb will have to wait until a new contract is in place in the new fiscal year. The Commissioners asked if it was possible to go to the Finance Committee for an exception. Ms. Carey indicated the project involved heavy trucks coming on to the field with specialized equipment that can only be provided by a contractor. In preparation, wooden boards would need to be laid to protect the field and track areas. All of the other lights are lit at this time so there is enough visibility to continue to use the track area at night. The Commissioners recommended that the contractor replaced all of the bulbs if it is not too costly.
3. **Assistant Director's Report:** Ms. Peirce reported that Public Health Week was held April 2-6<sup>th</sup>. She organized 3 neighborhood walks and approximately 22 people participated. The Health Fair was held on April 4<sup>th</sup> and was well attended. Ms. Peirce and Ms. DiCicco completed interviewing for summer positions and

will be making recommendations for hiring very soon. On April 10<sup>th</sup> Ms. Peirce will be meeting with Mary Rizzuto from the Needham Science Center to discuss a partnership between the Needham Community Gardeners and the schools garden projects. Summer Volunteer registration begins on Wednesday, April 11<sup>th</sup> at 5:00PM.

**4. Discussion Items:**

**A. DeFazio Projects:** Ms. Carey reported the specifications for the DeFazio parking lot have been completed and are ready to go out to bid for approval from Special Town Meeting in May. Specifications for the track storage building are not yet completed.

**B. Hillside/Mitchell Feasibility Study:** Prior to the Commission meeting, Mr. Jacob attended the PPBC meeting to listen to the discussion regarding the Hillside/Mitchell Feasibility Study. The PPBC is looking at 4 possible options.

Option 1 - Rebuild at Mitchell

Option 2 - Rebuild at Hillside or at Cricket Field

Option 3 – Build a new 6<sup>th</sup> grade at DeFazio Park leaving High Rock available to become an elementary school.

Option 4 – All elementary schools become K-4<sup>th</sup> grades and one 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> grade school is built on McLeod Field and in the parking lot of Defazio Park.

The PPBC offered to meet with the Park and Recreation Commission to discuss the options that effect DeFazio and Cricket Fields. The conversation was paused to address the agenda item Rocket Lacrosse.

**C. Greene's Field Playground Update:** Discussed later in the meeting.

**D. Rail Trail Update:** Discussed later in the meeting.

**E. Rocket Lacrosse/128 Lacrosse:** Mrs. Carey Stenberg attended the meeting to clarify the Rocket Lacrosse and 128 lacrosse programs. Rocket Lacrosse was started by the High School Boy's Lacrosse coaches to offer residents of Needham extra camp and clinic opportunities. 128 Lacrosse was also started by one of the Needham Boy's lacrosse coaches and a lacrosse coach from Lexington High School. 128 Lacrosse started as a boy's select club lacrosse program that is now open to girls who also want to play at the collegiate level. 128 Lacrosse is approximately 75% Needham residents. They strive to keep the price affordable so all students can participate. The schedule includes attending 4-5 tournaments and 8 summer practices. There are 4 boy's teams with 25 on a team and tryouts are held in the fall. The girls do not have tryouts but they have a fall clinic and a spring clinic. The past weekend the spring clinic was held in Canton and 100 girls attended. 128 Lacrosse is in the process of

confirming as a non profit and once that is finalized they will apply for 501c3 status. Rocket Lacrosse is a one week program during the summer enlisting former high school players to help run the program. Mr. Jacob noted that without the non profit status the lacrosse programs will not be able to use the Needham fields.

- B. Hillside/Mitchell Feasibility Study:** The Commissioners returned to the Hillside/Mitchell Feasibility Study conversation. Mr. Nadler suggested the Chairman meet with the Board of Selectmen and George Kent Chairman of the PPBC to ask some questions including why the Nike Site is not one of the options being discussed. Mr. Jacob will contact Mr. Kent to schedule a meeting to discuss this project with the Chair and Vice Chair of the Park and Recreation Commission.
- C. Greene's Field Playground Update:** Ms. Carey shared a report prepared for the Board of Selectmen from the Greene's Field Play Structures Working Group. The report included recommendations for passive recreation, youth sports and replacement options for the play structure.
- D. Rail Trail Update:** Ms. Carey announced that the Rail Trail Group will meet on June 8<sup>th</sup> with pertinent Town department managers to review the scope of the Rail Trail Project. The Rail Trail group will be creating a request to the Board of Selectmen for funds to cover insurance costs and to review leasing the property to be presented at the fall Special Town Meeting for approval. There is also discussion of applying for CPA funding for a feasibility study for the bridge reconstruction that crosses the Charles River along the trail.
- F. Field Scheduling/Maintenance Update:** Ms. Carey reported the groups seems to be working together to share the fields. The High School is facing some challenges when requesting weekend space from the youth group organizations. Field scheduling problems have been less this year due to the dry weather.
- G. Rosemary Pool:** Ms. Carey reported that DPW began monitoring the draining of Rosemary Pool on April 6<sup>th</sup>. She also clarified that the 2011 law suit had 3 components, 2 have been voted on in favor of the Town and the 3<sup>rd</sup> component has not moved forward. Mrs. Chaston expressed concern regarding setting the Rosemary Pool rates and would like to create a policy with parameters guiding rate setting. Mr. Jacob agreed that rates should be determined by looking at the data listed in the Revenue and Expense report. Mrs. Chaston suggested 2 Commissioners work on this project. Ms. Carey indicated her injury limited the time to work on this project but the Fall/Winter/Spring Revenue and Expense Report will be available in the summer and the Summer Revenue and Expense report will be available in the fall. Mrs. Chaston suggested adding the following

question to the town wide survey: "Should the Town of Needham be in the business of running an outdoor pool?" If the answer is yes then should it be at the Rosemary location? Ms. Carey noted that the Town Manager Kate Fitzpatrick is working on the final questions for the survey. Mr. Nadler suggested asking the question "If you or a family member have used Rosemary Pool Complex." Mrs. Chaston noted this was a valid question but thought it might be more helpful if there was a time limit of visiting in the past 5 years. Ms. Carey will share the questions with the Town Manager.

- H. Trails Projects:** Ms. Peirce reported 2 representatives from the Newton Greenway Trail attended the March 28<sup>th</sup> Rail Trail meeting and shared their progress on this project. On April 1 Ms. Peirce led a trail clean up with members of Temple Beth Shalom for Tikkum Olam Day at Ridge Hill. Approximately 19 people attended and cleared the North and Beard Trails. The next Trail Steward Training will take place on April 23.

**5. Action Items:**

- A. Needham Swim Team Request:** Mr. Nadler made a motion to approve the request from the Needham Swim Association to waive the \$5 participant fee for the use of Rosemary Pool for swim team practices and meets. The Swim Team members will continue to pay for an individual pool pass. Mrs. Chaston seconded the motion and the motion was approved.
- B. Meeting Conflicts: May 14, May 28:** Due to the conflicts of Town Meeting and Memorial Day the Commissioners recommended holding one meeting in May on Tuesday, May 15<sup>th</sup> at 7:00PM. Ms. Carey will see if the Charles River Room is available. If another May meeting is necessary it will be determined on May 15<sup>th</sup>.

**6. Topics for future Agendas:**

- Hillside/Mitchell Feasibility Study
- Discuss ending dates for action items

- 7. Adjournment:** Mr. Nadler made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:37PM. Mrs. Chaston seconded the motion and the motion was approved. Ms. Carey presented Mr. Nadler with a proclamation and a framed photo in recognition of his service on the Park and Recreation Commission.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen A. Peirce, CPRP  
Assistant Director