

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

**MINUTES OF MEETING
May 29, 2012**

PRESENT: Thomas M. Jacob, Chairman
Michael J. Retzky, Vice Chairman
Cynthia J. Chaston, Member
David C. DiCicco, Member
Patricia M. Carey, Director
Karen A. Peirce, Assistant Director

ABSENT: Andrea L. Shorthose, Member

GUESTS: Bob Cohen, DeFazio Neighbor

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

1. **Minutes of Meeting of May 15, 2012:** Mr. Jacob made a motion to approve the minutes of the May 15, 2012 meeting with the following amendment. He requested the addition of the word *attend* - Section B. Discussion Items: Hillside/Mitchell Feasibility Study the corrected sentence; Some members of the Commission will try to *attend* the PPBC meeting too. Mrs. Chaston seconded the motion as amended and the amended motion was approved.
2. **Director's Report:** Submitted in writing prior to the meeting. Mr. Jacob asked if North Hill will be attending a meeting to discuss the plans for the building project. Ms. Carey will discuss with the Town Manager to understand what the role of the Board of Selectmen will be in regards to the proposed easement across the parcel that includes Dwight Field.
3. **Assistant Director's Report:** Ms. Peirce shared the summer staff training schedules and the Summer Program Brochure. She noted the Touch the Trucks event was a huge success with a great turnout. Temple Aliyah did a trash clean up at Claxton Field on May 20, 2012. Preseason work has begun at Rosemary Pool.
4. **Discussion Items:**
 - A. **Resignation of Youth Commission Appointee:** Ms. Carey reported the current appointee has resigned due her family re-locating. A new Youth Commission appointee will need to be appointed. She suggested looking for a

candidate with an interest in youth programming and services. Ms. Carey will advertise in the local papers and on the Town website.

B. Hillside/Mitchell Feasibility Study: Mr. DiCicco, Mrs. Chaston and Mr. Jacob each shared their concerns with Mr. Retzky on the process that has led to Cricket Field being named as a possible school building site. Each has attended a variety of meetings to gather additional information, and are concerned that the School Committee and PPBC do not have a thorough understanding of the park, the value of the park in an area of town without much public green space, and the impact the loss of athletic fields, temporary or permanent, would have on all organizations, including Needham High teams. Mr. Jacob asked if a member of the Commission could be a voting member on the pre-feasibility study. Ms. Carey explained that it was under the PPBC and the two additional voting members had already been appointed and the project was just about finished. Ms. Carey has attended working group meetings since mid April. Mr. Retzky and Mrs. Chaston will write a letter with background information, the Commission's concerns, and requests for additional questions to be answered.

C. Newman Playground: Some members of the Newman playground committee met with the Finance Committee and Board of Selectmen during meetings held earlier in the evenings of Town Meeting. They were considering a request to Town Meeting to provide funds to the playground project, through a reduction in funds requested in a separate article. They did not receive support for the concept, and chose not to make a request to Town Meeting. The committee also met with the Trust Fund Commission, seeking funds from the Derwood Newman Trust, but that requires approval from the Superintendent and School Committee, so that is currently not an option. Ms. Carey has met with the Town Manager, Superintendent, and other Town staff. The parents have already raised enough funds for the playground, and installation may be donated by the contractor at the school, so any additional funding they raise is primarily for a more expensive safety surfacing.

D. Town Meeting Review: No Discussion.

E. DeFazio Parking Lot: Ms. Carey reported the DPW electronic sign is in the parking lot to alert the residents that the lot will be under construction next week.

F. Memorial Day Weekend Soccer Tournament: Ms. Carey reported the weather was perfect and according to the Parks and Forestry Superintendent Ed Olsen the fields were left in good condition.

G. Rosemary Pool: Ms. Carey reported the focus is on getting the pool ready to be able to open on June 18th. Mr. DiCicco asked about the 2002 feasibility study. Ms. Carey explained that the study was for a building on the site, with an indoor

pool, gym, fitness area, a senior center and offices. The third part of the lawsuit on the draining is moving forward, with a request for depositions this summer. Ms. Carey indicated after the pool is open for the season she will schedule a time to meet with the Town Manager Kate Fitzpatrick to discuss a plan for the Rosemary Feasibility Study.

H. Rail Trail Update: A meeting is scheduled on June 8th with the Town department managers to introduce the concept of the Rail Trail. Conversations continue with the MBTA regarding the lease of the tracks in Needham, Medfield and Dover. The Selectmen will schedule a public hearing for resident input on the concept.

I. Trails Projects: Ms. Peirce reported that she attended the restoration monitoring of the Carol Brewster property. Trees were identified, tagged and documented on the GPS by the IT department staff. On May 17th she took members of the Needham Science Center staff on a hike to the Town Forest to plan out a route for future second grade field trips. The Governor announced that there will be a new recreational trails policy to work with 14 communities to allow public access to open space along the historic aqueducts. The Sudbury Aqueduct runs through Needham.

5. Action Items:

A. None Presented

6. Topics for future Agendas: CPA funding project list

7. Adjournment: Mr. Jacob made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:16PM. Mrs. Chaston seconded the motion and the meeting adjourned at 9:16PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen A. Peirce, CPRP
Assistant Director