

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

**MINUTES OF MEETING  
June 25, 2012**

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

**GUESTS:** Bob Cohen, DeFazio Neighbor  
Heather Yountz, Cricket Field Neighbor

The meeting convened at 7:05PM in the Charles River Room located in the Public Services Administration Building.

1. **Minutes of Meetings May 29, 2012:** Mr. Jacob made a motion to approve the minutes of the May 29, 2012 meeting. Mrs. Chaston seconded the motion and the motion was approved.  
**Minutes of June 11, 2012:** Mrs. Chaston made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 11, 2012 meeting. Mr. Jacob seconded the motion but asked a change be made under section 4. Action Items: Hillside/Mitchell Feasibility Study. He requested the motion be indented so it is easier to locate. The motion was amended to indent the motion in section 4. was voted on and approved.
2. **Director's Report:** Submitted in writing prior to the meeting. The Rocket Lacrosse non profit paperwork has been received.
3. **Assistant Director's Report:** Ms. Peirce stated most of the month of June was spent in training staff and volunteers while getting the pool ready to open. The Police and Fire drill with the pool staff went very well. Safety drills have been happening daily at the pool. Today was the first day of swimming lessons but it was rained out due to the thunderstorms in the morning. Summer programs also began today. Ms. Peirce attended the Senior Billiards Annual Awards luncheon at the Senior Center on June 21<sup>st</sup>.
4. **Discussion Items:**
  - A. **Girl's Lacrosse Fall Program:** Postponed to be discussed at the next meeting.

**B. Relay for Life Review:** Mrs. Chaston thanked Mr. Retzky for going to the Police Station and DeFazio Park at midnight the night of the Relay for Life to have the music turned off. All in all it was a successful event. The event will return to the Newman School location in 2013.

**C. DeFazio Parking Lot:** Ms. Carey reported the new parking lot surface has been completed and with more and more use the cars in the parking lot will pack down the stone material.

**D. Rosemary Pool:** Ms. Carey reported the pool has been open for one week. The first few days were quiet but then the temperature hit the 90's and the numbers increased. Mr. DiCicco asked if there could be ice cream sold at the pool. Ms. Peirce mentioned that she is working on procuring ice cream to sell using the freezer donated to the pool by the Community Council. The funds raised will be used to purchase shade structures and umbrellas. Ms. Carey will be meeting with Town Manager Kate Fitzpatrick and PPBC Director Steve Popper in July to discuss the scope of the Rosemary Pool Feasibility Study.

**E. Community Preservation: Possible Projects under Recreation**

**Category:** Ms. Carey reviewed the list that she presented to the Commissioners. Mr. Retzky suggested the Commissioners review the list and discuss prioritizing the projects to present to the CPC. Mr. Jacob had questions regarding the CPC process. Ms. Carey indicated CPC may hold a summit style meeting to educate potential applicants. The CPC would like to make sure there is money available for smaller projects as well as larger projects including those that might need to be bonded. December 1 is the deadline to submit requests that will be voted upon at the May Town Meeting. The Rail Trail can apply for funds in collaboration with the Board of Selectmen and/or Park and Recreation Commission. CPC legislators are in the process of working out the budget and then need final approval from the Governor. The priority list will be reviewed and discussed at the next Commission meeting.

**F. Trails Projects:** Ms. Carey noted the rescheduled Hike for Tykes was held on Saturday, June 23<sup>rd</sup>. Although only 3 children attended it was a fun time. Another hike will be scheduled for the fall.

**5. Action Items:**

**A. Hillside/Mitchell Feasibility Study:** Mr. Retzky noted he and Ms. Carey submitted suggested to the draft report from the consultants to the PPBC and the School Committee and Ms. Carey submitted it to PPBC Director Steve Popper, School Superintendent Dan Gutekanst, and School Committee Chairperson Heidi Black. Mrs. Chaston asked if the language was changed identifying Park and Recreation's concerns including a section on fields. Ms. Carey was unsure if the changes were made. Mr. Retzky noted the letter and the motion were sent to the

PPBC and the School Committee. No response has been received at this time. Mr. Retzky told the PPBC that the letter, the motion and his comments must be added to the executive summary. Mr. Retzky also asked for a copy of the final document. Mr. Jacob would prefer the report not discuss replacement fields as it suggests Cricket fields could be replaced. The School Committee may discuss the Hillside/Mitchell Feasibility Study at the July 10<sup>th</sup> School Committee meeting. Mr. DiCicco reiterated that he was not recognized in the minutes as asking questions and being present at the PPBC meeting in April. He noted the School Department and PPBC had Cricket in the RFQ while at the same time Park and Recreation was working with PPBC on a feasibility study to renovate the Cricket building. This topic will remain an action item until the School Committee and PPBC includes the Park and Recreation Commission concerns in the letter of intent to MSBA. Mr. Retzky will follow the School Committee upcoming meetings and a few Commissioners will try to attend the meetings. Mr. Jacob suggested reaching out to other School Committee members to see how individuals feel about the Cricket proposal.

**B. Special Event Request: Charles River Center Ellie Bloom Olympics:**

The Charles River Center requested the use of DeFazio Track on September 8<sup>th</sup> from 7:00AM-2:00PM to host the Ellie Bloom Olympics. Mr. Jacob made a motion to approve the special event request for the Ellie Bloom Olympics on September 8, 2012. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Chaston and the motion was approved.

6. **Topics for future Agendas:** Ms. Carey noted that the Needham Youth Center has disbanded and the Youth Center will be run through the Health Department Substance Abuse Coalition under the direction of Carol Read. Mr. Jacob added the YMCA future plans as a topic for a future agenda.
7. **Adjournment:** Mrs. Chaston made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:25PM. Mr. Jacob seconded the motion and the meeting adjourned at 8:25PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen A. Peirce, CPRP  
Assistant Director